FRIDAY
December 22, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/whatsapp
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

Vol. 54 • No. 301

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

MORE VIGIL
CISF to take over Parliament security
NEWS » PAGE 15

WFI PRESIDENT POLL
Sakshi Malik quits wrestling in protest
SPORT » PAGE 19

PANNUN 'MURDER' PLOT
Got consular access to Gupta thrice: MEA
NEWS » PAGE 16

PARLEY
The debate over creating All-India Judicial Service
No consensus on the proposal yet
OPINION » PAGE 13

THE SANJU SHOW
Samson sets up India's series win against SA
SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

KIA wins a special prize at UNESCO event

BENGALURU
Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has been recognised as one of the world's most beautiful airports and awarded the world special prize for interiors at the UNESCO's 2023 Prix Versailles.
» PAGE 2

Awas Yojana: State to give additional ₹3.5L per house

BENGALURU
In a bid to boost housing for the poor, the State government decided to provide additional financial assistance of ₹3.5 lakh per house being built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. » PAGE 8

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

Turbulent Winter Session ends day before schedule

Both Houses adjourned *sine die*; disqualification of Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra, security breach in Lok Sabha, suspension of 146 MPs, and passage of 18 Bills were highlights of the stormy session

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned *sine die* a day in advance after what is being termed as the frostiest Winter Session of relations between treasury and Opposition benches in India's history. The session saw a security breach in the Lok Sabha, the suspension of 146 MPs, and the disqualification of Trinamool Congress MP Mohua Moitra from the Lower House.

The session, held against the backdrop of the results of the Assembly elections in five States, was expected to be stormy, with Ms. Moitra's disqualification on December 8, following the adoption of a report by the Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha.

Raising objection: Opposition MPs address the media after staging a protest in New Delhi on Thursday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

But barely had the sparks dimmed that the Lok Sabha witnessed a security breach, with two persons entering and setting off coloured gas canisters on December 13, 22 years to the day terrorists had attacked the old Parliament House. While the incident fortunately did not lead to any casualties, Speaker Om Birla did not agree to the Opposition's demand for a statement by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and as Opposition MPs protested, carrying placards into the Well of the House, a series of suspensions began, with several MPs referred to the Privileges Committee.

Suspensions galore

While Mr. Birla, in a letter to the MPs, said the suspensions were the result of placards being carried, and "unruly" behaviour, the protests continued, as did the suspensions. Since last Thursday, 146 MPs have been suspended from both Houses, with three of them suspended for the duration of the session. This saw 99 out of the 139 INDIA bloc MPs suspended in the Lok Sabha, and 46 out of 97 of them suspended in the Rajya Sabha.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14
CRIMINAL LAW BILLS PASSED
» PAGE 14
RS CLEARS TELECOM BILL
» PAGE 14

Lok Sabha passes Bill on CEC, EC appointment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023 amid the scarce presence of Opposition members in the House. The Bill had been passed by the Rajya Sabha on December 12.

Speaking during a debate before the passage of the Bill on Thursday, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said the names of the commissioners were so far decided by the government, but from now on a search and selection committee will overlook the process. He also asserted that this was in line with the Supreme Court's directions.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Assets case: Minister Ponmudy, wife get three years in prison

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Thursday sentenced Tamil Nadu Minister K. Ponmudy and his wife P. Visalakshi to three years of simple imprisonment in a disproportionate assets case in which they were convicted on Tuesday after the reversal of their 2016 acquittal by a trial court.

Justice G. Jayachandran also imposed a fine of ₹50 lakh each on both the convicts, ordering a further jail sentence of six more months if they fail to pay the fine amount imposed, in view of the gravity of the offence of corruption.

The judge, however, granted 30 days' time for the couple to surrender before the special court for the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) cases in Villupuram. This gives them time to approach the Supreme Court with an appeal challenging their convictions and sentences.

K. Ponmudy coming out of the Madras High Court campus following the verdict on Thursday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

"In case the accused persons fail to surrender on or before January 22, 2024, the trial court shall secure the accused by executing a warrant," the judge wrote.

Initially, Justice Jayachandran said that he would suspend the sentence for 30 days.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Shining bright

Commercial Street in Bengaluru is ready to welcome Christmas and the New Year. Although some cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the State, the government has said there will be no restrictions on the celebrations, as of now. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

COVID-19: Active cases in Karnataka cross 100 mark after months

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After nearly 10 months, active cases in Karnataka crossed the 100 mark on Thursday. With 24 new cases, the total number of positive patients in the State touched 40,89,174 and active cases reached 105.

Bengaluru continues to be the hotspot of COVID-19 in the State with over 88% of the total active cases from the city. As many as 1,540 tests were conducted in the city in the last 24 hours, of which 23 tested positive.

As many as 2,263 tests were done on Thursday and the test positivity rate stood at 1.06%. Of the 105 active cases, 20 patients have been hospitalised with nine in ICU.

Don't panic: CM

Chief Minister, who announced a Cabinet subcommittee to monitor COVID-19 management, appealed to people not to panic.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who turned up in a mask himself, said it was advisable for all, especially the elderly and those with co-morbidities, to take precautions.

"People should compulsorily mask up in crowded places and indoor gatherings. This is in the interests of people's own health," he said.

He added that genome sequencing of samples of those who have died, those with co-morbidities, those with a history of foreign travel would be done in the event of a surge reported from a cluster or a particular region.

Fifth 'guarantee' of Cong. set for launch

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The fifth and final guarantee of the Congress government is set for launch, with registration for Yuva Nidhi scheme beginning on December 26 and the Direct Benefit Transfer being rolled out on Vivekananda Jayanti on January 12 at a function in Shivamogga.

Yuva Nidhi, which provides financial assistance to unemployed youth, will be given based on a monthly self-declaration by beneficiaries, said Minister Sharan Prakash Patil. The State government has mapped 5.29 lakh graduates and diploma holders to be eligible to apply.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 8

Withdraw orderlies from retired IPS officers' homes, says State govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Home Department on Tuesday directed the administration wing in the police headquarters to withdraw orderlies (police personnel working as cooks and domestic help) who continue to work in the houses of retired IPS officers. This shows that while the system of orderlies was officially done away with, it continues unabated.

Additional Director General of Police (Administration) Soumendu Mukherjee issued the order, which quoted the petition of retired Director General of Police P. Ravindranath dated April, 2022, stating that orderlies are still working at houses of retired IPS officers. Mr. Mukherjee directed the nodal officials to withdraw the orderlies and submit a report to the head office in a week.

Seven recalled

A senior police officer working as nodal officer said that there were seven orderlies working in the houses of retired officials and they have been recalled. He added that there was no provision for orderlies even for serving police officials, apart from providing a cook appointed by the reserve force under the "cook" category.

However, sources in the department said that though orderly service does not exist officially, the practice continues due to "an understanding" between the senior officials of the Reserve Battalions and IPS officers.

The orderly system in the police forces across the country was introduced by the British. This allowed constables and home guards to be appointed as personal attendants to IPS officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and above. Though this system was claimed to have been abolished, some officials continued to avail the service in the guise of getting cooks, which they are entitled to, a senior police officer said.

Trained police personnel serving in Reserve Battalions were sent to serve the IPS officers as cooks, domestic help, manual labourers, and gardeners. In March 2017, the then principal secretary of the Home Department, P.K. Garg, notified announcing the abolition of the orderly system and asking them to avail allowance instead.

The abolition of the orderly system was started by the then Director General and Inspector General of Police C. Dinakar, which was carried forward by Ajai Kumar Singh. However, the proposal was objected to by senior police officers.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 5

Pooja proves perseverance pays in the toughest format of all

After seeing the pacer struggle with injuries periodically over the past few years, to see her at her fittest and thriving in the red-ball arena is heart-warming; in the span of a week, the 24-year-old has produced magical deliveries to dismiss some of the biggest names in the business

Lavanya Lakshmi Narayanan

EMMANUAL YOGINI

There's something about Pooja Vastrakar, Test cricket and Australia. When India went up against Meg Lanning's Aussies in a Pink ball Test in Carrara back in 2021, Pooja returned remarkable match figures of four for 62 in 26.4 overs which included the prized wickets of Meg Lanning, Tahlia McGrath and Beth Mooney.

More than two years later, against the same opponent but this time at the legendary Wankhede Stadium, the Pooja Vastrakar show was on yet again. The 24-year-old took out Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Annabel Sutherland and Ashleigh Gardner, giving away just 53 runs in 16 overs. Her seam mastery helped India bundle out a potent Australian batting line-up for an ordinary 219 within the first day of play.

The performance comes days after a hostile morning spell wrapped up a meek English batting line-up, handing India a mammoth 347-run win.

"The ball she got Pez (Perry) off was a peach of a delivery," conceded McGrath, the Australian vice-captain. One can't blame her for her admiration. After seeing Pooja struggle with injuries periodically over the past few years, to see her at her fittest and also thriving is heart-warming.

Humble beginnings

For Ashutosh Srivastava, Pooja's childhood coach, she is still the 12-year-old he mistook for a boy, thumping the ball with power all those years ago in Shahdol, a small city in east Madhya Pradesh.

"We belong to a tribal area where people only watched or listened to cricket on the TV or radio. So to see someone from here doing what she does is incredible," Srivastava told *The Hindu*.

Pooja's tryst with cricket started with the bat. Ironically, it was an injury that introduced her to bowling.

"She initially came in with an interest in batting and she got selected for the Madhya Pradesh camp when she was just 12. During that camp, she injured her hand. There was a coach who said, 'Pooja, you're in the camp. Girls don't come in here too frequently. Why don't you try and bowl?' She gave it a try and enjoyed it. For me, it was an opportunity to mould an all-rounder which is an advantage in girls' cricket," he explained.

Srivastava's academy in Shahdol is Pooja's haven. It's where she has headed to regain rhythm after injuries and to prepare for potential challenges on the cricket field. This back-to-back red ball opportunity against England and then Australia was no different.

"Pooja had a target to bowl in the line of the stumps, work on how to cut the ball into the batter and how to maximise advantages of the wobble seam. She would bowl for two odd hours at a time to work on each of these elements. During the rains when matches weren't happening, we set up a matting wicket. U-19 and senior boys would come to train and she would bowl to them. Before the Test against England, she used to bowl to a single wicket on the main pitch," the coach recollected.

Mind and body in sync

From knee trouble and an anterior cruciate ligament tear to a COVID-19 diagnosis, many physical problems have come in between Pooja and the sport her heart beats for.

"As a coach, I would wonder about what will happen now. I was worried but she never was. Each time she picked up a niggle, she recovered and got back," Srivastava remembered.

As a bowler with nifty pace, Pooja sometimes struggled for control, a potential reason why the Indian management rarely looked her way for new ball duties.

"I felt that she was so quick that just the momentum of the delivery would send it for runs. The runs conceded becomes the parameter everyone sees and discusses," he said.

This is where Troy Cooley, long-time NCA staffer and India's current bowling coach, has made a difference. For Pooja, and perhaps for the entire Indian bowling contingent, Cooley doubles up a security blanket, shielding them from negatives and egging on the positives.

"His presence in the team has been so helpful. He is very positive. If we bowl badly, he doesn't address it. He focuses on the good things we've done in a session," she said after day one of the one-off Test against Australia.

Pooja is also surrounded by people who are helping her widen her repertoire and introduce variations to make her a more unpredictable element in the flow of a game.

"Naturally, I stick to outswingers. But in the video analysis we did for England and Australia, we saw that both teams usually find the going hard against the ball that comes in. So the plan was to use the wobble seam to bring the ball in because the ball would cut well and trouble the batters more," she added.

Two marquee batters were used as specimens to elucidate this point in two weeks. Nat Sciver-Brunt couldn't get to a straight ball angling in from Pooja properly and found her stumps uprooted. Perry was dismissed for her lowest Test score – a measly four from two balls – courtesy a length ball from Pooja which jagged in, castling the seasoned pro.

Helping hand

An element that is evidently working for this Indian side is the sense of camaraderie and the value of helping one's partner, be it with bat or ball.

Pooja understands it better than most, having been moulded to be Jhulan Goswami's support before stepping up as Renuka Singh's partner. At Wankhede, she was the one being helped, for a change, by a stoic Sneh Rana.

"Before lunch, we had conceded more runs than we had wanted to. So when we resumed after the break, the plan was to cut the boundaries we were allowing and to bowl as partners. If one concedes, then the bowler at the other end has to contain. Since Sneh was containing runs, I was able to free myself and attack. If she had been taken for runs, I would have switched to a more defensive approach," Pooja explained.

> She initially came in with an interest in batting and she got selected for Madhya Pradesh camp aged just 12. During that camp, she injured her hand. There was a coach there who said, 'Girls don't come in here too frequently. Why don't you try and bowl?' She gave it a try and enjoyed it. For me, it was an opportunity to mould an allrounder
>
> **ASHUTOSH SRIVASTAVA**
> Pooja's childhood coach

Team player

There has been much discussion about Pooja's position in the line-up, both with the bat and ball. Against England, one saw India choosing to alternate Renuka's pace with spin from Sneh. Pooja marked her run-up much later. Against Australia, on a pitch which had generous patches of grass at the ends, Pooja was given an earlier go, working with the new ball for a change.

"Pooja was someone we specifically spoke about as a batting unit. Her length is perfect for Tests. She runs in time and again and puts pressure on the batters. For us it was about capitalising when she missed and to put those balls away. We also tried to use the left-right combination as much as possible to throw off her length a bit. We will draw from her performance today," McGrath said.

About 1,218 km away in Shahdol, a very happy Srivastava is happy to see his ward's efforts bringing her consistent rewards. He does have a wish, though.

"If you ask me, I think she should bat higher up the order. But those taking the calls know what the team needs best," he added.

Cheatle. GETTY IMAGES

Santa came calling early with the 'Baggy Green'

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

During pre-Test media duties, Australian quick Lauren Cheatle was asked what would be on top of her Christmas list. "A Baggy Green," the response came, needing no thought at all. For any aspiring cricketer, representing your country in the most cherished format of the sport is a special accomplishment, a pot of gold to which the track is riddled with sticks and stones.

Cheatle was no stranger to international cricket. As a sprightly 17-year-old, she had made her T20I debut against India in 2016 and was even part of the Australian side which played the T20 World Cup here that year. In 2019, she returned for an ODI series against New Zealand but fell off the map since. All thanks to her own body.

Multiple obstacles

In 2017, Cheatle had a right shoulder reconstruction after which she suffered a back injury. She then had her left shoulder reconstructed in late 2019 after which she needed surgical intervention on her bicep too.

Cheatle wasn't one who could watch the game from the sidelines and so she took up a part-time job working with children with disabilities.

In 2021, she underwent surgery again after being diagnosed with early-stage skin cancer after spotting a lump on her shin. The experience was particularly hard on her, given she had grown up seeing her parents battle lymphoma and bowel cancer at different stages of their lives.

In the process, cricket became more than just a game.

Yearning for the real deal

"I remember my brother and I used to play mini-Tests when the cricket was on TV, in the breaks we'd go in the backyard and one of us would always be England or Australia, and we had these fake little Baggies that we'd put on. So if there is an opportunity to wear a Baggy Green, it would be unbelievable," Cheatle told *cricket.com.au*.

She returned to the game in 2022. A year later, she turned in impressive performances with the Australia A side touring England (she took 11 wickets) and in the Women's Big Bash League with the Sydney Sixers, finishing as joint leading wicket-taker with 21 scalps. Her bigger win perhaps was putting together a full season in top physical shape.

True allies

While dealing with her injuries Cheatle remembers the support of Sixers coach Ben Sawyer and Ellyse Perry who'd take her out coffee or do whatever they could to distract her and make her feel better. Therefore, it was only right that Perry would be the one to hand Cheatle her maiden Test cap in Mumbai.

Cheatle's battle with health oscillated between the comfort of knowing cricketing bodies can mature late(like Pat Cummins who has managed better fitness as he got older) and the frustrations of losing out on time in the game.

Life came full circle for Cheatle when Ellyse Perry handed her maiden Test cap in the very country where her international career began seven years ago. And after beating all odds, this Aussie Cheat-code is just getting started!

KIA's inner beauty wins special prize at UNESCO event

The Prix Versailles, established in 2015, focuses on intelligent sustainability as a cultural driver, acknowledging innovation, creativity, reflection of local heritage, ecological efficiency, and values of social interaction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Terminal 2 (T2) of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has been recognised as one of the world's most beautiful airports and awarded the world special prize for interiors at the UNESCO's 2023 Prix Versailles.

The world judges panel for the Prix Versailles 2023, chaired by fashion designer Elie Saab, announced the latest architectural projects to win a world title, according to Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates KIA.

The Prix Versailles, established in 2015, focuses on intelligent sustainability as a cultural driver, acknowledging innovation, creativity, reflection of local heritage, ecological efficiency, and values of social interaction.

T2 is referred to as 'Terminal in a Garden', and has been designed as a tribute to the Garden City of Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

T2, also known as the 'Terminal in a Garden', was inaugurated on November 11, 2022. Encompassing 2,55,661 square metres, it is built upon four foundational pillars – technological leadership, terminal in a garden, environmental and ecological stewardship, and a celebration of Karnataka's rich heritage and culture.

Embraced in engineered bamboo, the terminal's interiors offer a contemporary yet classic ambiance. The terminal features a spacious indoor garden with rammed-earth walls and waterfalls, as well as hanging planted bells, adding to the terminal's unique aesthetic.

Hari Marar, MD and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Limited, said, "The nomination of T2 for the 2023 Prix Versailles Award is a moment of immense pride, and we are pleased to see the terminal receiving the recognition it deserves. T2, with its unique blend of art and technology, serves as a distinctive gateway, leaving a lasting impression on global travellers, and offering a glimpse of the rich offerings of our State and country."

Two Indira Canteens at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport is set to get two Indira Canteens, with the Cabinet, which met here on Thursday, approving the proposal.

Suitable places to locate them will be found soon, said Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil.

According to BIAL, in Phase I, T2 is designed to accommodate 25 million passengers per annum, aligning with its vision of blending functionality with aesthetic appeal.

Cabinet approves upgrading 136 traffic signals in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday approved the upgradation of 136 traffic signals and installation of new adapative signals at 29 places in Bengaluru.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told presspersons here after a Cabinet meeting that the proposal was to upgrade the 136 traffic signals and introduce adaptive traffic system and synchronise them.

Besides, 29 signals have been identifiied to install the adaptive traffic signals and bring synchronisation. The government has approved the project that would cost ₹58.54 crore in maintenance for five years.

The State Cabinet on Thursday discussed ways to recover property tax arrears from the State and the Central government agencies whose arrears to the BBMP run into several hundred crores. Mr. Patil said that 448 properties have been identified from where ₹234 crore could be collected.

"The time extension to collect the arrears was discussed. The one-time settlement (OTS) that may include reduction, penalty waiver or interest settlement is being offered," he said, adding that the 448 identified properties were just a part of the larger State and Central government properties.

According to him, utilising the OTS, HAL has paid ₹91.59 crore and HMT ₹3.79 crore. "There are lot of other properties like this."

Electric buses

Meanwhile, the Cabinet also approved the purchase of 300 electric buses, including 75 AC and 225 non-AC buses, by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation and the purchase of 450 non-AC electric buses by the North-West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation.

It also approved the purchase of 20 non-AC electric buses instead of 20 electric mini-buses by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport.

Govt. appoints Rashmi Mahesh as trustee of BMS Education Trust

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has nominated V. Rashmi Mahesh, Principal Secretary of Revenue Department, as a trustee of the B.M. Srinivasaiah Education Trust (BMSET), Basavanagudi.

Ms. Rashmi will be working as a government representative in the administrative board of BMS Trust for four years.

Following several complaints about alleged irregularities, the government had decided to constitute a committee to conduct an inquiry into BMS Trust that runs prominent educational institutions, including one of the leading engineering colleges in the State.

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited
(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office : Engineering Building, H.E.C.,Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004,
Telephone :-0651-2400799 & Fax : 0651-2400799
https://www.jbvnl.co.in Email- cecr2018@gmail.com

Tender Cancellation Notice

E-Tender No 232/PR/JBVNL/2023-24 for Loss Reduction Work under Koderma Package invited by General Manager (Comml), JBVNL under RDSS Scheme is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Save Energy , Save Nation for Better tomorrow

Sd/-
PR No. 310913 General Manager (Coml.)
PR 313972 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(23-24).D

TAMIL NADU CEMENTS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU UNDERTAKING)
5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Ref.No:78/2023-24, Selection of Implementation Agency to Design,Develop, Implement and maintain the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) 2.0 Software and Migration of data from existing application for Tamil Nadu Cement Corporation Limited
Est. value : **Rs.5.20 Crore EMD: Rs.5,00,000/-**
Submission of tender : Up to 3.00 P.M. on 22.01.2024
Important Note: A pre-bid meeting will be held on **08.01.2024 at 3.00 pm** at TANCEM, Registered Office, 5th Floor, AavinIllam, No.3A, Pasumpon MuthuramalingamSalai, Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035.The Tender document can be downloaded from https://tntenders.gov.in Corrigendum /Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.
DIPR/6771/TENDER/2023 **GENERAL MANAGER (MARKETING)**

Government of Odisha
Skill Development and Technical Education Department
Directorate of Technical Education & Training, Odisha
At-Killamaidan, PO-Buxibazar, Cuttack-753001
Phone No- 0671 2301061, e-mail: dtetorissa@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) for Selection of Training Partner (TP) for Operation and Maintenance of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) at Patnagarh in Bolangir district and at Athamalik in Angul district on Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model

No. DTET/ /2023-24/_____/ Date: 19.12.2023

The Directorate of Technical Education and Training, Odisha intends to inviteTechnical and Financial Proposals from the eligible, reputed and qualified Agencies/Firms/Companies/Trust/Industries/Production-cum-Training Centers of National Repute (also referred to as 'Bidders') with sound technical and financial capabilities to operate and maintain Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Patnagarh of Bolangir district and Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Athamalik of Angul district in the State of Odisha, on Operate, Maintain and Transfer (the "OMT") basis. Bidders may view and study the RFP document containing the detailed terms & conditions from the website http://www.dtetodisha.gov.in/en/tender available from **20th December'2023**. The bids are to be submitted as per the procedure given in the RFP document.Any addendum/corrigendum (if required) will be uploaded at DTE&T website mentioned above.

DTE&T, Odisha, Cuttack
KK-342 OIPR-44008/11/0026/2324

TENUGHAT VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED
तेनुघाट विद्युत निगम लिमिटेड
(A GOVT. OF JHARKHAND UNDERTAKING), CIN U40101JH1987SGC013153
HINOO, DORANDA, RANCHI-834002, JHARKHAND

Letter No: - 914/2023-24 **e-TENDER NOTICE** **Dated: - 21/12/2023**

Online tender in two parts (Part-I Technical & Commercial Bid, Part-II Price Bid) are invited on behalf of TENUGHAT VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED, Ranchi from reputed, experienced and financially sound bidders for under mentioned work :-

Sl. No.	NIT No.	Description of NIT	Last date & time of online submission of Bid	Last date & time for submission of physical copies of Bid and Responsive Check Document	Due Date & time of opening of Part-I
1	11/Coal Block Rajbar E&D/ W/ TVNL/RAN/ 23-24	Selection of Mine Developer and Operator for development and operation of Rajbar E&D Coal Mine, Auranga Coalfield in Latehar District, Jharkhand	05.03.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.	05.03.2024 at 15:30 Hrs.	07.03.2024 at 16:00 Hrs.

Bid documents are to be submitted online on https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app and physical copy is to be submitted at Registered Office of Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited at Hinoo, Ranchi, Jharkhand up to the last date and time. The tender document can be downloaded from the link https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app and https://tvnl.in

Sd/-
(Rajesh Ranjan)
PR 314030 Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd.(23-24)#D Electrical Superintending Engineer (P&S)

ANNA UNIVERSITY
CHENNAI - 600 025

TENDER NOTICE

On-line Tenders in Two Bid System are invited for procurement of Desktop Computers, Work Station and Biometric for Anna University through the Director, Ramanujan Computing Centre, Anna University, Chennai - 25.

Sl.No.	Tender Ref. No.	Name of the equipment / item	Department/Centre	Qty.	Approx. Cost Rs.
1.	38_1/CPO/RCC/i7DC/ CCC/2023	i7 Desktop Computers 1271 Nos. (CCC)	University Colleges Engineering and Regional Campuses	1271 Nos.	9,53,25,000/-
2.	38_2/CPO/RCC/i7DC/ ECE/2023	i7 Desktop Computers 65 Nos. (ECE)	Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering	65 Nos.	46,00,000/-
3.	38_3/CPO/RCC/i9DC/ IT/2023	i9 Desktop Computers - 75 Nos. (IT)	Information Technolology, MIT Campus	75 Nos.	85,75,050/-
4.	38_4/CPO/RCC/WS/ CT/2023	Workstation - 10 Nos. (CT)	Computer Technolology, MIT Campus	10 Nos.	45,00,000/-
5.	47/CPO/RCC/ BIOMETRIC/2023	BIOMETRIC - 70 Nos. (Main and MIT Campus)	Main and MIT Campus	70 Nos.	51,40,812/-

The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** from **11.00 am on 22.12.2023.** The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website up to **03.00 pm on 11.01.2024** and will be opened at **03.00 pm on 12.01.2024.** Other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website **(https://tntenders.gov.in)**.

DIPR.6769/Tender/2023 **REGISTRAR i/c**

ODISHA BIGYAN ACADEMY

ADVERTISEMENT

Nominations in the prescribed proforma are invited by the Odisha Bigyan Academy, Science & Technology Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar for the following Awards and Honours **for the Award Year 2023** based on **scientific contributions upto 31st December, 2022.**

1. **Biju Patnaik Award for Scientific Excellence.**
   (Minimum age of Scientists must be 60 years & above on 31st December, 2022)
2. **Samanta Chandra Sekhar Award.**
   (Upper age of Scientists must not exceed 60 years on 31st December, 2022)
3. **Odisha Young Scientists Award.**
   (Upper age of Young Scientists must not exceed 35 years on 31st December, 2022)
4. **Pranakrushna Parija Popular Science Book Award.**
   (For authors of Odia Popular Science Books in General & Children category)
5. **Felicitation of Senior Scientists of Odisha.**
   (Age must be 65 years or above on 31st December, 2022)

For detail guidelines and nomination proforma, please log in to Odisha Bigyan Academy website: **www.odishabigyanacademy.nic.in.**

The nomination proforma can be downloaded from the above website. Duly filled-in proforma as per guidelines to be sent to the Secretary, Odisha Bigyan Academy in the following address along with all particulars & documents. Nominees for Biju Patnaik Award for Scientific Excellence, Samanta Chandra Sekhar Award & Odisha Young Scientists Award are required to mention Thomson Reuter Impact Factor against the list of publications and should also mention number of total Citations, ***h*** index & ***i*** 10 index at the top of the publications list. A nominator can nominate only one nominee for a particular category of award in a year. As Pranakrushna Parija Popular Science Book Award is a single award, nominee can apply either for General category or Children category in an award year.

The last date for receipt of nominations is **07.02.2024 (upto 5.00 pm). Nominations received after due date shall not be taken into consideration.**

Secretary, Odisha Bigyan Academy,
B/2, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751 007, Odisha (INDIA)

U-74 OIPR-28002/11/0001/2324

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client has agreed to purchase Property bearing No.9844985072, (old No. 151/114), Municipal Katha No.704/151/114, carved out of Sy.No.45 of Sonnappanahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore, which is more fully described in the schedule herein below from Smt. B.V. Narayanamma, W/o late. V.M. Chikkamuniswamaiah, residing at No. 300, Sonnappanahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore-562157. Any person having any right/claim over the schedule property or any portion thereof in any manner may lodge his/her/their claim/objection in writing to the undersigned within **7 days** hereof along with copies of all the documents being relied upon, as otherwise my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/objections from any person/s.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing No.9844985072, (old No. 151/114), Municipal Katha No.704/151/114, carved out of Sy.No.45 of Sonnappanahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore measuring 249.723264 Sq.mtrs (2688 Sq.ft) having built up area of 92.903 Sq.mtrs, now within the limits of Hunasamaranahalli Town Municipal Council and bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Property of M. Srinivas, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property of M. Venugopal.

K. SOMASHEKAR REDDY, Advocate
No.1, 1st Floor, M.C Plaza, 1st Main Road, 1st Cross, Ganganagar, Bangalore-560032. Mob: 9448381245
Date: 21-12-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my client intends to purchase immovable property mentioned in the Schedule here below from the owners (1) **Mr.Baljeet Sing Chhazal and (2) Mrs. Preeti Rana,** both residing at 2129 Elderberry Drive, San Ramon, California. The owners represent that they are the absolute owners having good marketable title to the Schedule Property, Any Person or Persons having claim of whatsoever kind with regard to the schedule property or any objections to the above transaction, may write to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice in the News Paper, with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed to complete the transaction as if no claim exists and that they have been waived.

SCHEDULE

All that Residential Apartment bearing No. A-1310. measuring 1175 Sqft, of Super Built up area in Thirteenth Floor of Block A of "Mayflower" in the Brigade Millenium Apartment in Puttenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and Apartment is bounded by
East by: Open Space in Mayflower
West by: Corridor in Mayflower
North by: Staircase in Mayflower and
South by: Open Space in May Flower
Place: Bangalore
Date: 20/12/2023
NARENDRA DESAI (Advocate)
No.33/3, 2nd Floor, 59th Cross, Rajajinagar, 5th Block, Bangalore- 560010

Government of Karnataka
GULBARGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KALABURAGI
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
E-mail:directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Phone No 08472-260252

N No. GIMS/KLB/Tender/CR-33/PathoPG/2023-24/Call-2/2311 Date: 20/12/2023

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement) ::

Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi invites Re-tender for eligible bidders in bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement mode for the SUPPLY OF "POST GRADUATE EQUIPMENTS/INSTRUMENTS" TO PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT at GIMS, HOSPITAL KALABURAGI. Details are available in the site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date and time for upload of e-tender in E-procurement platform as follows.

1) Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from website- http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in **No. GIMS/KLB/Tender/CR-33/ PathoPG/ 2023-24/CALL-2 Date: 18/12/202 DME/2023-24/IND0375**, 2) Last Date for Queries on or before : **22-12-2023 @ 05:00pm,** 3) Pre bid meeting: **26-12-2023 @ 11:30am**, 4) Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before: **01-01-2024 @ 4.30pm,** 5) Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid: **02-01-2024 @ 05:00pm**, 6) Opening of Tenders Financial bid: **03-01-2024 @ 05:30pm,** 7) Tender amount: **Rs. 1,23,50,000=00,** 8) EMD: Variable EMD Min Rs.3,000/- Max 1,05,000/-, 8) Contact Details: Director, GIMS Kalaburagi veresh Nagar sedam road Kalaburagi 585105, 08472 260252, Mob: 9448712914

Sd/- Director
Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/592/KSMC&A/2023-24

Agriculture Produce Market Committee, Shahapur
Yadagiri main Road, Shahapur-585223 Dist: Yadagiri
E-mail: apmcshahapur@gmail.com, OFF/FAX: (08479)243341

No.AMD/APMC/SHP/DVLP/ 1131/ 2023-24 DATE: 21.12.2023

Short term E-Tender Notification

The work of construction of c.c. platform and cc drain in fruit and vegetable market at Shahapur main market yard under project RIDF-29 has been invited under 2 cover system as per standard tender document KW-04. Amount put to tender:2,51,89,689.00, EMD in Rupees 3,77,900/- cost of tender from in Rs. As per e-procurement portal, period of completion 175 days, excluding monsoon Date of pre-bid meeting :02.01.2024 At 11:00 AM Administrative office, A.P.M.C SHAHAPUR, last date and time for receipt of Tender:08.01.2024 05:00 PM, date and time of opening technical bid:10.01.2024 05:00 PM, Date and time of opening Financial bid: after Technical bid approved, The tender terms & conditions can be obtained through specified tender portal https://eproc.karnataka.giv.in Interested parties may obtain further information, if required, through e-portal help line no. 080-46010000, 080-68948777 Secretary A.P.M.C Shahapur between 10.30 AM To 05.30 PM on working days. NOTE:- after the release of grant from the said RIDF-29 fund, the bill will be paid to the contractor.

Sd/- Secretary **Sd/- Chairman**
DIP/YDG/234/KSMC&A/2023-24

COFFEE BOARD
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NO.1, Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI, BENGALURU–560 001

NOTICE INVITING ONLINE TENDER

No.Adm/Engg/Glass House/CCRI/ 2023-24/182 Dated: 20.12.2023

Percentage rate Online tenders are invited in two bid systems by the Coffee Board for the work of **"Construction of Glass House of size [8.00 x 24.00] mtrs at Central Coffee Research Institute [CCRI] near Balehonnur , Chikkmagalur District, Karnataka ".** at an Estimated cost of **Rs.48,13,944/-.** For further details, visit **https://indiacoffee.enivida.com** or **https://coffeeboard.gov.in** or **https://epublish/app The last date for submission of online tenders is 11.01.2024 by 3:30 PM. The date of opening of Technical bids is 11.01.2024 at 4.30 PM.**

Sd/-
Joint Director (Extn & Admin i/c), Coffee Board, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Intends to purchase the Schedule Property from **Sri. Ashwin R. Hinduja,** S/o. Sri Rajendra.J.Hinduja, aged about 50 years, Residing at No.251, 18th Cross, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru - 560080.

Any person/s having any manner of claims/objections for the proposed purchase may lodge their claims/ objections with the undersigned, with documentary evidence within **Ten (10)** days from the date of this publication. Any claims/objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/ objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Immovable Property bearing **Site No.1456,** situated at Judicial Layout, formed on various Survey Numbers of Allasandra, Chikkabommsandra and Jakkur Plantation Villages Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, formerly coming within the jurisdiction of City Municipal Council, Yelahanka, Bangalore and now coming within the Jurisdiction of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Yelahanka Sub-Division, Bangalore, Measuring East West 60 feet and North to South 90Feet, Totally measuring 5400 Sq.ft. or 600 Sq. Yards, having BBMP Katha No.1575 / 1537 / 1456 and bounded on the : **East by:** Site No.1455, **West by :** Site No. 1457, **North by :** Site No.1475, **South by :** Road.

Y.S.H. Reddy - Advocate
No.503, 1st Floor, Sai Leela Suites, No.1, 1st Main, 7th Cross, Parallel to 80 Feet Road, HMT Layout, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 032

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

1. टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में टीडब्ल्यूटी के पास इसट्रैक से 110 केवी सब-स्टेशन तक मौजूदा सड़क का पुन:संरेखण (सिविल कार्य) / Re-alignment of existing road from ISTRAC to 110kV Substation near TWT at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil works) /
NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/20/2023-24 Dt. 20.12.2023, (पी.ए.सी./PAC : ₹ 160.54 लाख / Lakhs)

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading: दिनांक 21.12.2023, 12.00 **बजे**/ hrs. **से**/to **दिनांक** 28.12.2023, 23.00 **बजे**/ hrs

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। / Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in.

Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक / Group Director, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / CMG,VSSC

A BG-BGE

As JN.1 emerges as variant of interest, time to evaluate preparedness

The additional global public health risk posed by JN.1 is evaluated as low. But with the onset of winter in the Northern Hemisphere, JN.1 could increase the burden of respiratory infections. Nations would do well to prepare ahead for a possible cascade of respiratory infections

Ramya Kannan

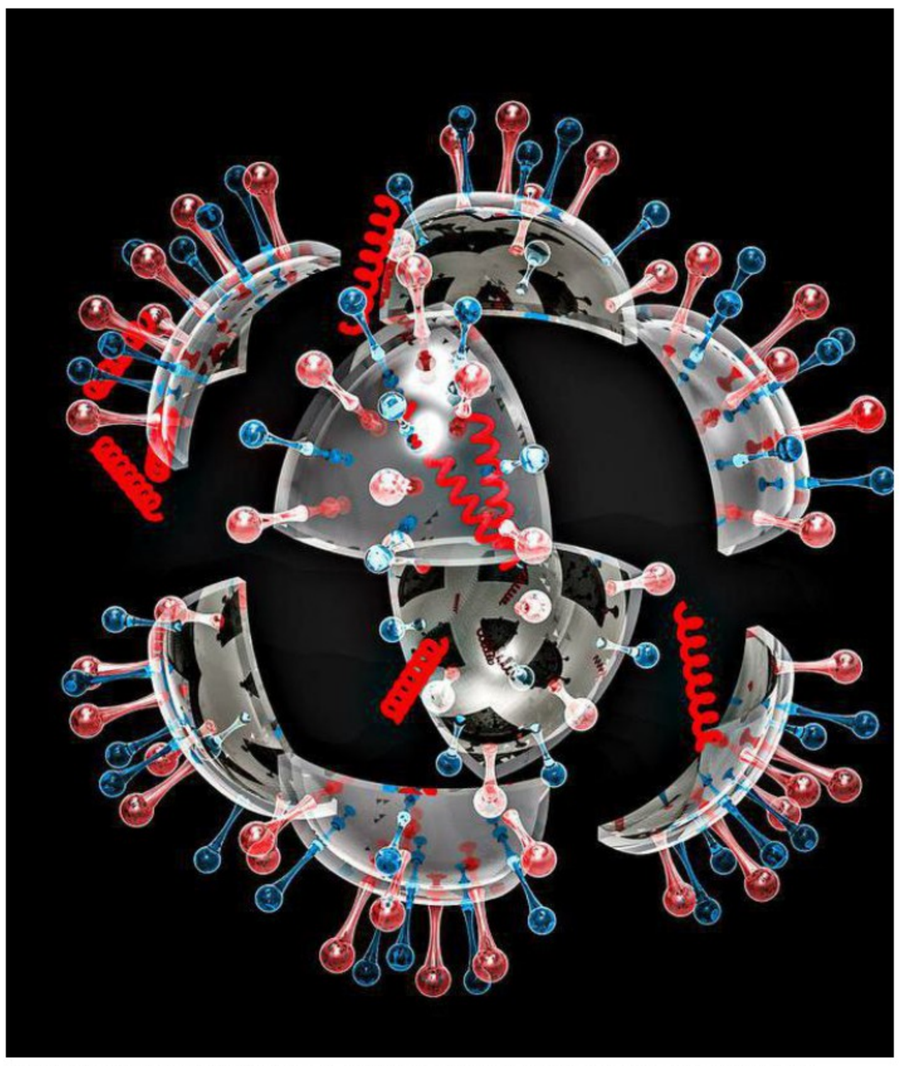
COVID-19 has appeared on the radar again, nearly a year and a half after the world relaxed and watched the progress of the virus from a distance. The identification of a sub variant – JN.1 – has sparked fresh interest in the epidemiological world, and has sounded the need for caution. The World Health Organisation, has decided, due to its rapid spread, to classify the variant JN.1 as a separate variant of interest (VOI) from the parent lineage BA.2.86. It was previously classified as VOI as part of BA.2.86 sublineages.

As per WHO's updated definition of a VOI, it would be a SARS-CoV-2 variant with genetic changes that are predicted or known to affect virus characteristics such as transmissibility, virulence, antibody evasion, susceptibility to therapeutics and detectability. It has also been identified to have a growth advantage over other circulating variants in more than one WHO region with increasing relative prevalence alongside increasing number of cases over time, or other apparent epidemiological impacts to suggest an emerging risk to global public health.

The WHO also says that based on currently available evidence, the additional global public health risk posed by JN.1 is currently evaluated as low. Despite this, with the onset of winter in the Northern Hemisphere, JN.1 could increase the burden of respiratory infections in many countries. Nations would do well to prepare ahead for a possible cascade of respiratory infections, and treat them effectively, preventing severe disease and death.

The WHO added that it would continue to monitor the JN.1 variant and assess the situation, modifying advice as and when required. Maria Van Kerkhove, infectious disease epidemiologist who serves as the technical lead for COVID-19 response at the WHO, earlier explained that JN.1, a sublineage of the BA.2.86 series, is capable of the full spectrum, from asymptomatic disease to severe disease to death, similar to Omicron variants. Some countries have sounded the alert for people to wear masks in crowded and public areas, including Singapore and India. While it was first detected in the United States in September 2023, China detected seven infections of the particular sub-variant on December 15, as per a Reuters report.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the US has been tracking this strain since August 2023. In a statement, the CDC said: "The continued growth of JN.1 suggests that it is either more transmissible or better at evading our immune systems. At this time, there is no evidence that JN.1 presents an increased risk to public health relative to other currently circulating variants." They also added that there was no indication of increased severity from JN.1 at this time.



The JN.1 variant is likely more transmissible or able to evade our immune systems. GETTY IMAGES

Significantly, the CDC said that updated COVID-19 vaccines are expected to increase protection against JN.1 as they do for the other variants. "As noted in previous updates, COVID-19 tests and treatments are expected to be effective against JN.1.

> The variant is under intense scrutiny but not a cause of immediate concern. All JN.1 cases were found to be mild and all of them recovered without complications

Cases in India

In India, things have moved on since the first case of JN.1 was detected in Kerala, earlier this week. Admitting that India has registered a rise in the daily COVID-19 positivity rate in some States, including Kerala, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Karnataka, the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday, while issuing an alert, said that no clusters had been reported in the new JN.1 variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.

"The variant is currently under intense scientific scrutiny but not a cause of immediate concern. All JN.1 cases were found to be mild and all of them have recovered without any complications," Ministry sources added. NITI Aayog Member (Health) V.K. Paul said that India has detected 21 cases of the JN.1 sub-variant JN.1, and between 91% and 92% of those infected are comfortable with home-based treatment.

"Nineteen cases of COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1 have been traced in Goa, and one each in Kerala and Maharashtra. Over the past two weeks, 16 deaths related to COVID-19 were recorded, with many of the deceased having serious co-morbidities," Dr. Paul added.

The debate is on in India, about whether an additional dose of vaccination is required now to protect against JN.1, but most epidemiologists are agreed upon that with good coverage (nearly 95%) of two doses of the vaccine combined with the immunity from natural infections will stand the country in good stead if the JN.1 were to progress from VOI to Variant of Concern (VOC).

Evolving pathogens

All viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, change over time. While most changes have little to no impact on the virus's properties, a few changes can affect the way it spreads, severity of disease, the impact of vaccines, and effectiveness of therapeutic strategies.

Meanwhile, in the two years, in several areas diagnostic technology has been enhanced by artificial intelligence, such as X-Rays with AI inputs, to aid in detection. Hopefully, these will be put to battle if such a situation were to arise.

However, some changes may affect the virus's properties, such as how easily it spreads, the associated disease severity, or the performance of vaccines, therapeutic medicines, diagnostic tools, or other public health and social measures. In June 2020, the WHO Virus Evolution Working Group was established with a specific focus on SARS-CoV-2 variants, their phenotype and their impact on countermeasures. This later became the Technical Advisory Group on SARS-CoV-2 Virus Evolution. In late 2020, the emergence of variants that posed an increased risk to global public health prompted WHO to characterise some as variants of interest (VOIs) and variants of concern (VOCs) in order to prioritise global monitoring and research, and to inform and adjust the COVID-19 response.

A global concern is the availability of good data and models from across the world, proper sequencing of the viruses, with nations mounting intense surveillance. Dr. Van Kherkhove urged countries to mount surveillance, sequence the variants and share information. Sharing of data is of crucial importance, as the last three years of the pandemic showed. The WHO says considerable progress has been made in establishing and strengthening a global system to detect signals of potential VOIs or VOCs and rapidly assess the risk posed by SARS-CoV-2 variants to public health. "It remains critical that these systems are maintained, and data are shared, according to good principles and in a timely fashion, as SARS-CoV-2 continues to circulate at high levels around the world."

The global health body also recommends monitoring the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in animal populations, and chronically infected individuals, which are crucial aspects of the global strategy to reduce the occurrence of mutations that have negative public health implications.

(ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in)

BIG SHOT

Woodchurch High School pupils Megan Pitt and Corey Gibson, 13, prepare their sheep as they compete in the Young Handlers class at the Westmorland County Show near Kendal, Britain, in September. The Woodchurch High School farm opened 13 years ago, becoming a haven that nurtures the mental health and confidence of its students. Each year, the students compete in the prestigious Royal Cheshire and Westmorland county shows, displaying skills gained by looking after their sheep, alpacas, goats, pigs and chickens. Many have won prizes and acclaim from farming experts. REUTERS

Ascorbic acid is at the heart of a new therapy to treat nicotine dependency. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Researchers patenting new treatment for nicotine addiction

Serena Josephine M.

Researchers have demonstrated a practical approach for treating nicotine dependence. Currently, Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) – nicotine patches or lozenges – relies on providing additional nicotine to the body. Researchers have now turned to nicotine's oxidative metabolite, cotinine. Using ascorbic acid as a potential reducing agent, they converted cotinine in smokers' plasma back to nicotine, targeting both nicotine addiction and detoxification simultaneously.

Publishing the results of their study – Recirculating bioavailable nicotine metabolite using ascorbic acid: A pragmatic approach to treating nicotine dependence – a team of researchers from the Faculty of Pharmacy, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, have developed a dissolvable film containing Vitamin C that a smoker places on the tongue whenever tempted to smoke. Ascorbic acid in a specified dose (Vitamin C) converts cotinine back to nicotine within the smokers' plasma, they claim.

Individuals find it difficult to quit smoking because of nicotine withdrawal. Current NRT products provide additional nicotine to the body. This turned researchers to cotinine. The results of the study were published in the indexed journal *Advances in Redox Research*. The team has filed for an Indian patent and has established an incubator for clinical application.

Vitamin C can be utilised to recirculate cotinine. The patient does not receive additional nicotine and detoxification occurs at the end of the cycle

According to Murugesan Arumugam, first author: "Nicotine is metabolised into cotinine, an oxidative metabolite. Cotinine will stay in the body for six weeks (the quantity of cotinine depends on an individual's tobacco consumption). Generally, 80% of nicotine accumulates as cotinine in the body, while the remaining 20% is eliminated in urine. Cotinine can cause cancer. So, for the first time, instead of adding on to the nicotine content in the body, we have showcased that vitamin C can be utilised to recirculate cotinine. Side effects are negligible, the person does not receive additional nicotine and detoxification occurs at the end of the cycle." Raman Lakshmi Sundaram, Vishal Jayajothi, Manish Arul, Jerad A Suresh and Sathesh Kumar Kesavan are the other authors.

For the study, the researchers screened and recruited volunteers – both non-smokers and smokers. A total of 41 volunteers were screened of whom 25 met the criteria and were enrolled. All of them were men and had a median age of 21 years. Nearly 64% of the volunteers attempted to quit smoking but were unable to do so because of the severity of their withdrawal symptoms; the major being depression.

The accumulation of cotinine in the body can vary depending on the amount of nicotine consumed. Their objective was to convert cotinine into nicotine by reducing its carbonyl group. They first used a software to identify potential reducing agents and analysed the forward reaction of cotinine with various compounds. Based on their analysis using the software, they found it could be possible to convert cotinine back to nicotine using reducing agents.

(serena.m@thehindu.co.in)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

State to restart vaccination drive if necessary; Cabinet sub-committee to be set up

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that Karnataka will not wait for Central supplies of vaccine for COVID-19, and will procure it on its own

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Schoolchildren wearing masks as a precaution during their visit to the Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

The Karnataka government will, if necessary, restart COVID-19 vaccination that has almost come to a standstill in the last eight months.

Announcing this after a meeting on Thursday with members of the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and officials, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said although the situation in Karnataka is not alarming as of now, it is the responsibility of all citizens to follow precautions.

"Three persons have died in Bengaluru since December 15, and COVID-19 was not the only cause of death. They had multiple comorbidities, and COVID-19 was an incidental finding," he said.

"I have given strict instructions to officials to ensure that the lapses that occurred in the management of COVID-19 during the previous government's regime should not be repeated. Oxygen, ventilator beds, and medical supplies should be made available based on requirement. The Health and Medical Education departments should work in coordination to ensure that none of these are lacking," he said.

Asserting that Karnataka will not wait for Central supplies of vaccine, the Chief Minister said, "If necessary, we will take up a vaccination drive to immunise those who are still unvaccinated so that they are protected from severe disease. Vaccination may not prevent infection, but it will protect the person from getting a severe form of the disease. If necessary, Karnataka will procure vaccine stocks on its own without waiting for Central supplies."

Mr. Siddaramaiah said a Cabinet sub-committee is being set up to monitor the COVID-19 situation in coordination with the TAC. The State Cabinet on Thursday resolved to set up the committee.

"This Cabinet sub-committee will look into procurement of the necessary requirements for combating the disease, and ensure that there is no shortage. The required funds will be provided. It will also take a call on whether vaccination should be provided free of cost or at subsidised rates," he said. replying to queries.

The Cabinet sub-committee will visit hospitals once in two-three days, and take timely decisions as and when required for proper management.

In the event of a surge and if the situation demands, dedicated hospitals will be identified for treatment of COVID-19 patients.

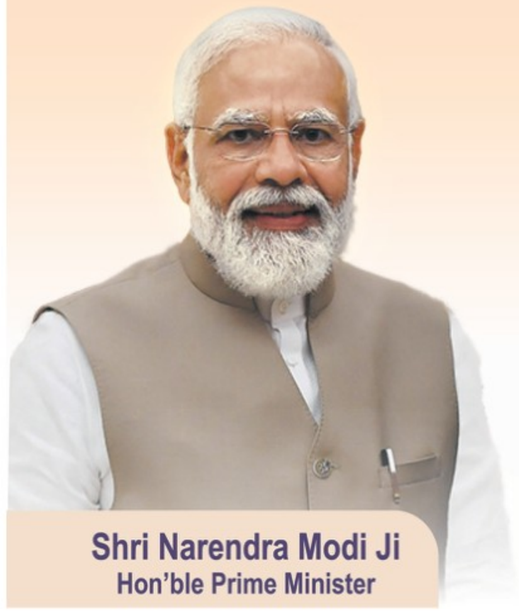
"These dedicated facilities will be fully equipped to admit, isolate, and treat COVID-19 patients," said the Chief Minister without specifying whether private hospitals will also be roped in.

On private schools reportedly making masks compulsory for students, the Chief Minister said: "It is good. The sub-committee will decide in this regard too in the days to come in consultation with the TAC."

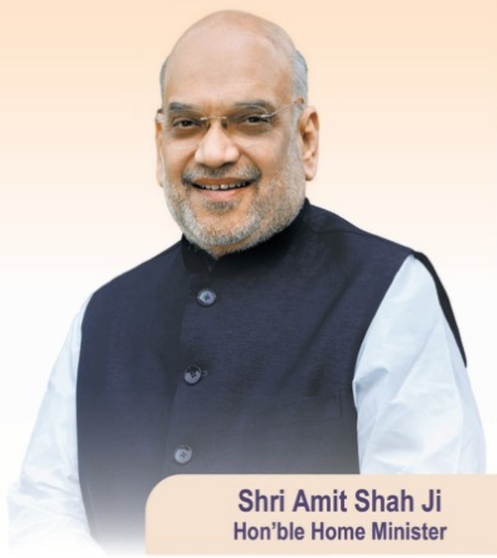
Reiterating that COVID-19 testing will be ramped up in Karnataka, Mr. Siddaramaiah said 5,000 tests (3,500 RTPCR and 1,500 Rapid Antigen Tests) will be conducted across the State from Saturday.

"Of these, 1,500 will be in Bengaluru. Border districts have been instructed to conduct more tests," he said.

INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Aao Gaon Chalen
Let's give health to every Indian



Shri Narendra Modi Ji
Hon'ble Prime Minister



Shri Amit Shah Ji
Hon'ble Home Minister

We are thankful to
Shri Narendra Modi Ji Hon'ble Prime Minister
and Shri Amit Shah Ji, Hon'ble Home Minister
for exempting the medical professionals
from the criminal prosecution under 304 a of IPC
now 26 of BNS (death by rash or negligent act)

Dr. Sharad Kr. Agarwal
National President

Dr. Ketan Desai
Past President
WMA, MCI & IMA

Dr. Anilkumar J. Nayak
Hony. Secretary General

HOME LOANS
A Space Marketing Initiative

Unlocking the door to Homeownership

The credit score is a crucial component in the complex world of real estate, where aspirations of becoming homeowners are fulfilled. The intricate nature of credit scores and their significant influence on interest rates and loan approval can be hard for prospective homebuyers to navigate. Lenders take into account your credit score, which is a numerical depiction of your creditworthiness when determining whether or not to approve your home loan application. It's more than just a number; it's the key that might lead to favourable loan conditions or create barriers in the way of becoming a homeowner. Credit scores have a big impact on whether a loan is granted.

This three-digit score, which usually ranges from 300 to 850, is used by lenders to determine how risky it is to lend money.

-Simran Kumar

IIFL

IIFL Home Finance Ltd., India's fastest-growing digital-first home finance company, has set its sights on achieving. ₹9,500 crore assets under management (AUM) target in the southern region for the current financial year.

The company's robust growth strategy includes focusing on various housing schemes, such as Affordable Housing Projects (AHP) and Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) schemes.

With an overall portfolio aimed at providing affordable homes to the masses, IIFL Home Finance Ltd. has successfully catered to the housing needs of thousands of individuals and families. IIFL Home Finance Ltd.'s commitment to ensuring housing affordability is evident through its exemplary performance in Karnataka.

As of November 30th, 2023, IIFL Home Finance Ltd. has disbursed about ₹2,170 Cr in the state, with a significant portion of approximately ₹1,565 Cr specifically directed towards the affordable housing sector. The strong presence of IIFL Home Finance Ltd. is demonstrated by its network of over 30 branches in the state of Karnataka.

Mr. Kranth Namala, Zonal Sales Head, South, IIFL Home Finance Ltd. said, "IIFL Home Finance Ltd. is committed to enabling every person and family to fulfill their ambition of owning a house by facilitating sustainable homeownership.

Our goal is to strengthen our presence in Karnataka. We want to close this fiscal year with an AUM of ₹9,500 crore.

Through our home financing solutions, we are devoted to improving lives and will never waver in our commitment to provide affordable housing options."

The mission of IIFL Home Finance Ltd. is to make the process of buying a house as simple and hassle-free as possible for each customer. As a fintech housing finance firm, IIFL Home Finance Ltd. is committed to employing 100% digital onboarding and future-ready technologies.

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
एक परिवार एक बैंक
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
FASTEST GROWING PSU Bank IN INDIA
2200+ branches and 2300+ ATMs

MAHA SUPER HOUSING LOAN
Avail lowest interest home loan to purchase/construct home/flat
8.50%*

- Zero processing fee
- Daily reducing balance
- No prepayment charges
- Top-up loan
- Easy balance transfer process
- Flexible repayment options to suit your financial requirement
- Tenure upto 30 years

DIGITAL PRODUCTS

WhatsApp Banking 70660 36640
Ask BoMy Virtual Assistant On website
Digital Loans Visit website
Maha Mobile — All in one App for banking, payments, wealth management and much more
Internet Banking, UPI, IMPS, BHIM Aadhar Pay
BoM Credit Card — Zero liability card with attractive features and rewards program
NETC FASTag — Save fuel & time with Mahabank FASTag
Online Locker Module — Facility to apply lockers online

Missed Call Services: 92222 81818 (Balance Enquiry) | 72878 88886 (Mini Statement) | 72878 88887 (E-Statement)

CPC Retail,
First floor, No 15, Police station road,
Basavangudi, Bangalore - 560004
Phone: 9146653999
Email : brmgr1502@mahabank.co.in

Toll Free Numbers: 1800-233-4526 | 1800-102-2636
Website: https://bankofmaharashtra.in
For Loan Enquiry, give a missed call to 8010 614 614
Follow Us @mahabank

IIFL HOME LOAN
OWN HOME IN ₹999* ONLY
08033094041
iiflhomeloans.com/tb

*T&C apply. Home in Rs.999 is initial money deposit (IMD). Additional processing fees is applicable, if any.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The productivity recorded by Lok Sabha during Winter Session

74 in percentage. The Lok Sabha was adjourned *sine die* a day ahead of schedule on December 21. In his concluding remarks, Speaker Om Birla said that the House held 14 sittings. He added that 18 Bills were passed in the session. PTI

Retail inflation for farm workers in November

7.37 in percentage. Retail inflation for farm workers rose in November while it rose to 7.13% for rural labourers. Retail inflation in October was 7.08% and 6.92% for farm workers and rural labourers, respectively. PTI

Worth of road construction projects underway in Delhi

65,000 in ₹ crore. The work on an expressway connecting Delhi's Akshardham temple to Dehradun has started, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said. PTI

The number of planes lying idle at Indian airports

164 Planes are lying idle at 15 airports in India, of which the highest number of grounded aircraft is at Delhi airport at 64, followed by Bengaluru (27), Mumbai (24) and Chennai (20), according to data shared by Jyotiraditya Scindia in Lok Sabha. PTI

The number of people who were forced to flee Sudan

3 in lakh. Fighting between Sudan's military and the notorious paramilitary group Rapid Support Forces forced people to flee their homes in a province that had been a safe haven for families. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Analysing the Post Office Bill, 2023

What does the Bill stipulate? What concerns have been raised by Opposition MPs? How has the government responded? What do prior Supreme Court rulings say about the state's surveillance powers? What have experts opined?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

On December 18, the Parliament passed the Post Office Bill, 2023, that seeks to replace the colonial-era Indian Post Office Act, 1898. According to the government, the legislation is an attempt to ensure the effective functioning of the Postal Department as a messenger service and as a provider of banking facilities.

What are the key features of the Bill?

The Post Office Bill, 2023 allows the interception of articles transmitted via post on grounds such as the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, emergency, public safety, or contravention of the provisions of the Bill or any other laws. The officer-in-charge appointed by the Union government is empowered to 'intercept, open or detain' any postal article on the aforementioned grounds. Such an item can also be disposed of by the government in a manner it deems appropriate. The Union government by notification can also empower any officer of the Post Office to deliver a postal article suspected of containing any prohibited item to the customs authority or any other specified authority.

The Bill exempts the Post Office from incurring any liability pertaining to its services. It specifically stipulates that no officer shall incur any liability unless the officer has acted fraudulently, or wilfully caused any loss, delay, or mis-delivery of service. There are also no offences and penalties specified under the Bill except one: amounts not paid by a user will be recoverable as arrears of land revenue. The 1898 Act contained offences such as theft, misappropriation, or destruction of postal articles which are punishable with imprisonment up to seven years and a fine. However, such offences and penalties were subsequently removed by the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023.

What were the concerns raised?

Shaktisinh Gohil of the Indian National Congress (INC) said that the Bill violates the fundamental right to privacy. "Right to Privacy is a fundamental right. I know that security is important and that you're doing this to protect people. But in the name of security, we have all seen recently how a company renowned globally for its hard-to-intercept software warned that 'state-sponsored hackers are trying to hack your mobile.' We MPs also got this message." The parliamentarian was referring to the recent email alerts received by several Opposition leaders and journalists from U.S.-based tech giant Apple informing them that their digital devices were being targeted by "state-sponsored attackers." Similarly, P. Wilson of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) underscored that the Bill, in the absence of guidelines, encourages state surveillance and violates Articles 14, 19(1)(a), and Article 21 of the Constitution. He also flagged how a post officer can be empowered to exercise search and seizure powers. "By granting such powers, the privacy of all the citizens who use the services of Indian Post is severely compromised since there is no provision in the Bill which injuncts the officer from leaking any contents of the intercepted postal articles," Mr. Wilson said.

Similarly, Raghav Chaddha of the Aam Admi Party (AAP) said that the Bill suffers from "Big Brother syndrome" and allows the government to monitor citizens.

Complete control: View of the Singukandam post office near Chinnakkanal in Idukki. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY

The Opposition leaders also pointed out that the law does not clarify the grounds for interception. For instance, it does not stipulate what would qualify as an 'emergency' – a ground for interception under Section 9(i) of the Bill. Sukhendu Sekhar Ray of the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) called the clause "absolutely vague" and pointed out that it gives unbridled powers to the authorities concerned. Mr. Ray also pointed out that the Bill fails to specify the procedure for interception, thus making it arbitrary in nature. Referring to the provision stating that 'interceptions may be carried out by the Union Government, State Governments, or any officer specially authorised by them', several MPs raised concerns that it does not provide clarity on how these officers will be selected, especially since they have been empowered to 'open and detain' any intercepted shipment.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor pointed out in the Lok Sabha that the Bill does not provide any grievance redressal mechanism to citizens despite relieving post officers of any liability with regard to the services offered. Referring to Section 9 of the Bill that permits interception, Mr. Tharoor underscored that there is no clause in the legislation asking the government to inform a citizen about such actions, and thus a citizen will be unable to raise concerns of interception or contest the action. This violates "every principle of natural justice and due process of law", he added.

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Communications and Information and Broadcasting stressed that owing to India's complex and diverse society, it is "very important that interception is done and this kind of a provision is kept in the law for purposes of national security." He also clarified that the government will soon frame rules containing the procedure for interception and that such a procedure will be fair and transparent.

What has been the history of the Bill?

Similar to the ground of 'emergency' under the Bill, the 1898 Act permits interception on grounds of 'public emergency'. While examining the Act, the Law Commission of India in its 38th report pointed out that since the term 'emergency' has not been explicitly defined, it provides a wide ground for interception. It also flagged that since the term has not been defined in the Constitution, it cannot serve as a reasonable ground for suspension of fundamental rights under Article 19(1). The Commission highlighted that a state of public emergency must be such that it is not secretive and is apparent to a reasonable man. Accordingly, it recommended that the legislature should amend the existing laws relating to interception to ensure that they adhere to the Constitution. This led to the enactment of the Telegraph (Amendment) Act of 1981.

A provision permitting interception was introduced earlier in the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 1986. It empowered the Union Government or the State Government or any authorised officer to 'intercept or detain' any postal article on the following grounds – public safety or tranquillity, the sovereignty, and integrity of India, the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, for preventing incitement to the commission of any offence, or on the occurrence of any public emergency. While the Bill was passed by both Houses, former President Zail Singh neither assented nor returned the Bill to the Parliament for reconsideration (he demitted office in July 1987). As a result, the legislation remained in limbo and was withdrawn by the Vajpayee government in 2002.

What are the relevant Supreme Court rulings?

In the *People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) versus Union of India* (1996), the constitutionality of Section 5(2) of the Telegraph Act was challenged for permitting telephonic interception without any due process guarantees. The Supreme Court acknowledged that telephone tapping infringed upon the fundamental right to privacy, and created safeguards against arbitrariness in the exercise of the state's surveillance powers. It underscored that in the absence of a just and fair procedure to regulate the powers of interception, it is not possible to safeguard the rights of citizens under Articles 19(1)(a) and Article 21.

In the landmark verdict *Justice KS Puttaswamy versus Union of India* (2017), the Supreme Court unanimously declared the right to privacy to be a fundamental right of all Indians. The verdict stipulated that any state measure that proposes to interfere with the right to privacy must satisfy certain requirements – (i) legality, the measure is authorised by statute; (ii) legitimate goal, the measure pursues a proper purpose; (iii) suitability, the measure takes meaningful steps towards achieving the proper purpose; (iv) necessity, the measure is the least rights-restrictive measure amongst equally effective alternatives; (v) proportionality, the measure does not disproportionately impact individual rights; and (vi) procedural safeguards, the measure incorporates meaningful guardrails against possible abuse. Additionally, the Court had opined with respect to the Pegasus spyware scandal that the state did not get "a free pass every time the spectre of national security is raised... National security cannot be the bugbear that the judiciary shies away from, by virtue of its mere mentioning."

What have experts said?

"There is an absolute lack of safeguards under this Bill. It is not as if the Union government cannot have the power to notify a person to inspect, intercept, open, or detain a postal item. The issue is that there is a lack of the usual requirements that accompany such interception orders such as reasons to be recorded in writing – why is it being done? There needs to be a justifiable reason", says Apar Gupta, lawyer and founding director of Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF).

Highlighting how the Bill encourages state surveillance, he asserts, "We must also remember that the issue is that the interception provision is tied to the provision of services and these services include citizen delivery services. For instance, people who need to enroll for electoral cards or obtain police verification will avail of such postal services. So there is a possibility of state surveillance because there are no safeguards at all – even orders in writing are not needed any longer."

THE GIST

The Post Office Bill, 2023 allows the interception of articles transmitted via post on grounds such as the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, emergency, public safety, or contravention of the provisions of the Bill or any other laws.

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Communications and Information and Broadcasting underscored that owing to India's complex and diverse society, it is "very important that interception is done and this kind of a provision is kept in the law for purposes of national security."

The Law Commission of India in its 38th report pointed out that since the term 'emergency' has not been explicitly defined, it provides a wide ground for interception. It also flagged that since the term has not been defined in the Constitution, it cannot serve as a reasonable ground for suspension of fundamental rights under Article 19(1).

The Court had opined with respect to the Pegasus spyware scandal that the state did not get "a free pass every time the spectre of national security is raised... National security cannot be the bugbear that the judiciary shies away from, by virtue of its mere mentioning."

Govt. of Karnataka

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru

(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)

No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/EDN/32/2023-EDU-Part(1) Date : 21.12.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Tendering Only)

Tender has been invited for **Conducting of K-CET / NEET/ JEE Online training Classes to First and Second PU Students of Residential School/Colleges of Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bangalore** from eligible agencies through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **21.12.2023.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **04.01.2024.** The details may be viewed in the above website.

Sd/- Executive Director
KREIS, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC/2670/2023-24

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ

9ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಟವರ್, ಡಾ॥ ಬಿ. ಆರ್ ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ವೀಧಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560001. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080-22867172/22866302
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 080-22863576 /22861665
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: sedmatech@gmail.com Website: www.municipaladmn.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 1002692DMA/ESTI/MISC 7/2023 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.12.2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ 34 ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್‌ಗಳ, ಒಬ್ಬರು ಎಂ.ಐ.ಎಸ್ ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಪರ್ಟ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಒಬ್ಬರು ನೋಡಲ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರುಗಳ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸೇವಾ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ **(INDENT No. DMA/2023-24/SE1750)** ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು **LCS** ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪ್ರಚಾರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದೊಳಗೆ ಅಪಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

DIPR/CP/2671/Zen/2023-24

:ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ:

Office of the Executive Engineer, Bagalkote Town Development Authority, Division No: 01, Bagalkote-587102.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08354–295372 E-mail: btdadn1@gmail.com

Tender Notification No:EE/BTDA/Dn.01/PB-04/Tender No:03/2023-24/ 2357 Date : 21-12-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 03
(Through karnataka public Procurement Portal only)

As per the tender procedure of KTPP Act, tenders are invited for pertaining to Indent No. 11, from registered eligible contractors Through karnataka public Procurement Portal.

The intending bidders for work details may login to karnataka public Procurement Portal website www.kppp.karnataka. gov.in for detailed notification and submission of the tender. The tenders can be submitted till 29.12.2023 up to 5.00 PM. financial bids will be opened on 30.12.2023 at 05.01 PM (if possible). Any other details can be obtained from this office in person or over telephone number 08354-295372.

Note : Please note henceforth, any changes in calendar of events Corrigendum/ Addendum will be published in karnataka public Procurement Portal only and will not published in Newspaper.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
BTDA, Division. No: 01, Bagalkote.

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-240/KSMCA/2023-24

RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Bangalore Rural, Beerasandra, Devanahalli Taluk. Email: **eerdwsd.bngr1@gmail.com;**
Phone: **080-29787463,** (Mobile) **9448367736**

No. 8/2023-24(Postponement) & 11/2023-24/1102 Date: 21.12.2023

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited on behalf of Governer of Karnataka through e-Procurement Portal for the works under 2215 H/A under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to **Provide FHTCs to House Holds in Bangalore Rural District & Empanelment for Drilling of Borewell at Nelmangala** (Standard Tender Document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4) Application & EMD Payment to be done through E-Procurement Portal.

General conditions: (1) Contractor has to upload Document in online only. **(2)** All qualifying documents has to be attached in online. **(1)** Tender Schedule can be downloaded from website after **4.00 PM Dated: 22.12.2023**. **(2)** Last date for tender uploading **upto 4.00 PM Dated: 30.12.2023. (3)** Date of opening of Tender / Technical Bid at **4.30 PM Dated: 01.01.2024. (4)** Date of opening of Financial Bid at **11.00 AM Dated: 02.01.2024.**

More details can be taken from the office of the undersigned and also through KPPP Portal, by clicking **List of Tenders** which will link to all Department works list.

Sd/-
(S.M Subhan Saheb)
Executive Engineer
RDW&S Division, Bangalore Rural.

DIPR/CP/2673/SPAN/2023-24

INDUSIND BANK LTD.

 # 1-10-72, 3rd floor, Ashoka Janardhana Chambers, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016, Ph: (040) 40916229

E-AUCTION SALE PROCLAMATION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Sale of immovable asset under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act).

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s in particular that the under mentioned property is mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor, being IndusInd Bank Limited, the possession of under mentioned property had been taken by the Authorised Officer of the IndusInd Bank Limited under S. 13(4) of the Act will be sold by E- Auction as mentioned below for recovery of under mentioned dues and applicable interest, charges and costs etc. as detailed below.

The property described below is being sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** under the rule no. 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter referred to as the rules) for the recovery of the dues detailed as under:

Name of Borrower : M/s. Kunal Concepts India Private Limited,
Co-Borrowers/Guarantors: 1)Mr. Sarkar Prabal, 2) Mrs. Lipi Sarkar

Total Amount Due as on 30-11-2023 : Rs. 2,06,38,901.51(Rupees Two Crore Six Lakhs Thirty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred One and Paisa Fifty-One)

Nature of Possession	Under possession
Date & Time of Auction	24/01/2024,11:00AM to 12:00 PM
Reserve Price	Rs.60,80,000/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Eighty Thousand)
EMD	Rs.6,08,000/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Eight Thousand only) RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to the credit of "IndusInd Bank Ltd", Account No. 00083564604005
Bid Increment	Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)
Mode of Auction	E-AUCTON

Description of secured asset : Apartment bearing No. 306 in 'A' Block, Third Floor "AQUA 1" situated at Kannamangala village, KasabaHobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore District, measuring 1145 Sq.ft., and (331 Sq. Ft., of undivided right) of super built-up area inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use with One (1) covered Car parking space.

Date of Inspection : 12/01/2024 between 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM. please contact Mr. Jansi Rao, 9886090570, Mr. Chakradhari Shubham, 930437675, Authorised Officer Mr. Varadaraj, Mob: 9966078652, vardaraj.devaraj@indusind.com.

Last Date of Submission of bids (E-auction) : 23/01/2024 up to 04:00 PM

This publication is also a Thirty Days (30) notice to the aforementioned borrower/guarantors under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditors Website i.e, **https://www.indusindbank.com,** regarding E-Auction/sale of respective property and other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the E –Auction. Bidders may also visit the website **https://www.bankeauctions.com.**

Date: 20-12-2023, Place : Bangalore Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indusind Bank Limited

---

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

(District Urban Development Cell)
KALABURAGI DISTRICT, KALABURAGI
Telephone No: 08472 – 278604 Fax no: 08472 – 278602
E-mail: dudc.glb@gmail.com & itstaff_dudc_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No.DUDC/Plan/KMP/3rd Party Rec/26/2023-24 Dated:18-12-2023

CALL-2 TENDER NOTIFICATION

Deputy Commissioner Kalaburagi District Kalaburagi invites tenders from ISO 9000:2015 and NABL Certified Professional Quality Supervision Consultants Agency/Authorised any Engineering College for providing Consultancy services as 3rd Party for below mentioned work in Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike of Kalaburagi District, For the period of ONE YEAR from the date of award, it can be extended upto TWO YEARS on the basis of performance of the Agency.

1) Name of the Work : Providing Consultancy services as 3rd Party Inspection of All Types of Development Civil/Electrical/Water Supply/UGD/Maintenance works including Procurement of Goods & Services Works but excluding SWM related Vehicles/Machinery/Safety/ Chemical Products under various grants of **Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike** in Kalaburagi District **INDENT No: DMA/2023-24/SE0245/CALL-2,** 2) Approx. Consultancy Contract Amount : **Rs. 75.00 Lakhs,** 3) EMD Amount : Rs.2.00 Lakhs, 4) Cost of Tender Document: As per e-proc portal, 5) Contact Period: For the period of ONE YEAR from the date of award, it can be extended upto TWO YEARS on the basis of performance of the Agency.

Calender of events are as follows:

Tender Documents are available in Government of Karnataka **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

1) Last Date and Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications : **26/12/2023 at 17.30 Hrs**, 2) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **27/12/2023 at 17.30 Hrs**, 3) Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **29/12/2023 at 11.00 Hrs**, 4) Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid : **03/01/2024 at 11.00 Hrs**

If any Postponement of calendar of events are published through above portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner,
Kalaburagi District, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/600/KSMC&A/2023-24

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ▪ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580 ▪ Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

REAL ESTATE

SALE/ RENT/ PARTNERSHIP

Educational Institution having Permission from PU Board, Govt. of Karnataka established 25 years back with around 500 Students (I/ II PUC/ Coaching) having 11000 sqft Fully Furnished Building and 3 Laboratories (PCB) is available for Sale/ Long Term Lease/ Rent/ Partnership.

Contact
9353969886/ 8217527620

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SANJAY S/O Narikutty Raveendran born on 23–12–1980 have changed my name to Sanjay Raveendran vide affidavit dated 20–12–2023 sworn before Notary Smt.Rajamani at Bengaluru.

I, IYAPPAN.M, S/o Munuswamy, R/at No.256, 8th Cross, Laxman Rao Nagar, Vivek Nagar Post, Koramangala, Bangalore-560047 have changed my name from Iyappan. M to Rojer Diego.M vide affidavit dated 01-07-2011 sworn before Notary B.R.Shashikala, Bangalore.

I, MAYUR Chaure also called as Chaure Mayur Bhatesing R/o #27, Flat No.101, 3rd Cross, 1st Main, Vi nayakanagar, B-Block, Bengaluru-560017 have changed my name to Mayur Bhatesing Chaure vide affidavit dated 20/12/2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE PRL SMALL CAUSES JUDGE (SCCH-04) AT BANGALORE
S.C. NO. 210 OF 2022
Hg 10.01.2024

BETWEEN :

ICICI Bank Ltd. A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act. 1949 having Registered Office at : "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007. And having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., Mythree Centre No. 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli Bangalore-560 068 and represented by its POA holder and Collection Manager Mr. Rohith Ali M. S/o Ishrath Ali M. Age ; 24 years

...PLAINTIFF

AND :

Sri Shafi Ahmed

...DEFENDANT

Summons to the Defendant To,

Defendant :

Sri Shafi Ahmed N., aged about 45 years, Son of K Nazeer Ahmed, R/at. No. 43, Bannerghahatta Road Pillaganahalli, Pillaganahalli Bus Stop, Bangalore- 560083

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of **Rs.1,74,605/- (Rupees One Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Six Hundred and Five Only)** as together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are here by summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on **10.01.2024 at 11:00 am** to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this **12th** day of **December, 2023.**

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M.KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates,
No. 4(10/2), West Park Road,
Kumara Park East,
Bangalore- 560001.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE II ADDL. JUNIOR CIVIL JUDGE, RANGA REDDY DISTRICT, AT HAYATHNAGAR
O.S.No. 321 of 2021

Between:
Sri Bellamkonda Rama Rao & others ...Plaintiffs
And
Sri S.Mathivanan ...Defendant
To,
Sri S.Mathivanan, S/o. Sri M.Selvaraj, Aged about 55 years, Occ: Pvt. Service, R/o. Flat No. 601, Block 18, Suncity Apartments, Sarjapur Outer Ring Road, Near Sobha Garnet Ibblur, Bangalore South- 560102, Karnataka State.

Please take notice that the Plaintiffs have instituted a Suit against you for Declaration. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a Pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the Suit on 01-02-2024 at 10-30 A.M. in the forenoon to answer the claim, and further you are hereby directed to file on that day a written statement of your defense and to produce on the said day all documents in your possession or power upon which you base your defense. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day above mentioned, the suit be heard and determined in your absence.

//By order of the Court//
VIGNENDRA VARMA RATHOD & ASSOCIATES
ADVOCATES
PREM KUTIR, H.No.3-9-518/11, Road No.3, Bhavani Nagar, Mansoorabad, Hyderabad- 500 068. Cell No.9032696177.
Email: ipcvvr@gmail.com

IN THE COURT OF THE PRL SMALL CAUSES JUDGE (SCCH-04) AT BANGALORE
S.C. NO. 210 OF 2022
Hg 10.01.2024

BETWEEN :

ICICI Bank Ltd. A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act. 1949 having Registered Office at : "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007. And having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., Mythree Centre No. 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli Bangalore-560 068 and represented by its POA holder and Collection Manager Mr. Rohith Ali M. S/o Ishrath Ali M. Age ; 24 years

...PLAINTIFF

AND :

Sri Shafi Ahmed

...DEFENDANT

Summons to the Defendant To,

Defendant :

Sri Shafi Ahmed N., aged about 45 years, Son of K Nazeer Ahmed, R/at. No. 43, Bannerghahatta Road Pillaganahalli, Pillaganahalli Bus Stop, Bangalore- 560083

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of **Rs.1,74,605/- (Rupees One Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Six Hundred and Five Only)** as together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are here by summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on **10.01.2024 at 11:00 am** to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this **12th** day of **December, 2023.**

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M.KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates,
No. 4(10/2), West Park Road,
Kumara Park East,
Bangalore- 560001.

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL (CCH 29) AT BANGALORE
O.S. NO. 25825/2023

BETWEEN :

M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED, Mittal Tower, M G Road, Bangalore- 560001
Rep. by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Ms. Mansi Singh
Aged 24 years
D/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh

...PLAINTIFF

AND:

MOHAN KUMAR M.
S/o Mr. Manjanna Aged about 34 years No.337/B, 1st Floor 3rd Main, 2nd Cross, Shivashankar Block, Bangalore- 560024

...DEFENDANT

Summons to Defendant

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 3,48,470.82/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Seventy and Paisa Eight Two Only)** apart from future interest of 24% p.a., in **OS NO. 25825/2023** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 29,** Before Addl., City Civil Court. Mayo Hall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 31st day of January, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 13th day of December, 2023

By the order of court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Mayo hall,
BENGALURU- 560001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES,
New No.9, Old No.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

IN THE COURT OF THE LXIV ADDL. CITY AND CIVIL SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-65)
OS NO 151/2023

Between :

M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at : M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd., No.1, Shobha Pearl, 2nd Floor, MG Road, Office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower Bengaluru- 560025, and branch Bommanahalli, Hosur main road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative. **...Plaintiff**

AND :

Biju Kuniyil **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :

Mr. Biju Kuniyil
S/o. Balan,
Aged about 44 Years,
R/at No.203, Mahaveer Desire Apartment, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Near Railway Station, Chikkabanavara post, Bangalore- 560090.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 11,74,103.51/-** along with interest at the rate of **24% P.A.** against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXIV Addl. City and Civil Sessions Judge at Bengaluru **(C.C.H-65),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of **17/02/2024** at **11:00 A.M** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this on the 16th day of December, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru 01

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA E-mail : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.

e - Procurement Notice for Road work

1. Name of the Work : **Restoration of Cement Treated Base Roads constructed in PMGSY under Periodical Maintenance for the financial year 2023-24. (17 Nos)**
3. Class of Contractor : **"B" & "A" Class** of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : **Varies from Rs.76.89 Lakhs to Rs.361.34 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4. Details projects as per Annexure attached :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	Availability of Tender online for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of opening of tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	**CCERWCSBD - Online - 50/2023-24**	**28.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M.**	**11.01.2024 up to 05.30 P.M.**	**10.01.2024 up to 2.00 P.M.**	**12.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M.**	**To be intimated separately**

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.

Sd/-Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.

O-1975 : OIPR-25182/11/0052/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR

AT/PO - NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK - 753004, Tel No. 0671-2444488,
Email - serw_kpd@yahoo.com

No:- Tender Online RCK - 44/23 Letter No.- 4879 / Date:- 20.12.23

e - Procurement NOTICE

1. **Name of the Work** : **Tender for the Road works under TRIP during 2023-24 in the Dist. of Kendrapara & Jajpur.**
2. **Class of Contractor** : As specified in the **Column-6 of the Annexure.**
3. **Time of Completion** : As Specified in the **Column - 7 of the Annexure.**
4. **Detail Projects** : **As per Annexure attached**
5. **Other Details** :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of opening of tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	**Tender Online RCK- 44/23**	**26.12.2023 at 11.30 A.M.**	**10.01.2024 to 05.00 P.M.**	**09.01.2024 up to 02.00 P.M.**	**11.01.2024 at 11.30 A.M.**	**Will be intimated later**

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

D.P. Karan,
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur

O-1970: OIPR-25129/11/0055/2324

Government of Karnataka
SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Opp: Mini Vidhana Soudha, Aiwan-E-Shahi Road, Kalaburagi-585102
Phone No: 08472-278621 Email Id: dswoglb@gmail.com

No.JDSWDK:KREIS:CR:06:2023-24 Date:20-12-2023

CORRIGENDUM

Short term e-Tender notification has been Called for the financial year 2023-24 for procuring manpower services for the Group- C & D Vacancies available in various types of Residential Schools in the district as per the Karnataka transparency in public procurement Act 1999 and 2000 from the eligible agencies though KPPP.

Events of e-procurement.

E-Tender Notification date:21-11-2023, Estimated amount put for e-Tender–Rs.495.00 lakhs, Last date for uploading the e-Tender 27-12-2023 5-30 Pm, Technical bid opening date 29-12-2023 morning 11-00 Am, Financial bid opening date 02-01-2024 morning 11-00 Am, Contact address of the officer for enquires / information Joint Director Social Welfare Department, Kalaburagi, Telephone No.08472-278621, Mail ID. dswoglb@gmail.com

	Terms and condition		Amendment Terms and condition
3	Pan Numbers (Upload pan card copies), Tenderer should not have any changes in PAN for the Last 3 financial Years.	:	Pan Numbers (Upload pan card copies)
4	GST and Service Tex Registration Certificate (Upload copys) Tenderer should not have any changes in GST Number for the last 3 financial Years. Latest GST Monthly Returns- GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B filed and returns filed must be in one GST number, GST Clerance Certificate from 2020-21 to 2022-23 (Upload copies)	:	GST and Service Tex Registration Certificate (Upload copys) Latest GST Monthly Returns- GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B filed and returns GST Clerance Certificate from 2020-21 to 2022-23 (Upload copies)

DIPR/Kalaburagi/599/KSMC&A/2023-24

Sd/- Joint Director,
Social Welfare Department, Kalaburagi

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

ENGINEERING WING

Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**

No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1,2&3/Tender/DIPHL & CCU/2023-24/1872 Date: 20.12.2023

Tender Notification

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in KPPP for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of work	Approximate amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory on existing Trama Centre at second floor in the premises of District Hospital Wenlock in Dakshina Kannada District	118.00	2.00	6 Months
2	Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory in the premises of District Hospital at Chikkaballapura in Chikkaballapura District	139.00	2.10	6 Months
3	Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory in the premises of District Hospital Dharwad in Dharwad District	134.00	2.01	6 Months
4	Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory in the premises of Sir C.V Raman Hospital in Bengaluru Urban District	116.00	2.00	6 Months
5	Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory in the premises of District Hospital Mysuru in Mysuru District	111.00	2.00	6 Months
6	Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory in the premises of District Hospital Bagalakote in Bagalakote District	119.00	2.00	6 Months
7	Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory at Chitradurga	148.00	2.22	6 Months
8	Establishing District Integrated Public Health Laboratory at DH Ballari	132.00	2.00	6 Months
9	Construction of 100 bed Critical Care Unit at Sir C.V Raman General Hospital premises Bengaluru Urban District	3567.00	35.67	20 Months
10	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care Block at District Hospital Chikkamagaluru in Chikkamagaluru District	1583.00	15.83	15 Months
11	Construction of 50 Bed Critical Care Unit Hospital in the premises of DH at Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District	1915.00	19.15	15 Months
12	Construction of 50 Bed Critical Care Unit Hospital in Vijayanagara District	1755.00	17.55	15 Months
13	Construction of 50 Bed Critical Care Unit Hospital in the Premises of Wenlok District Hospital at Mangaluru in D.K. District	1970.00	19.70	15 Months

Calendar of Events: Sl.No.1 to 8: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **08.01.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **09.01.2024 at 16.00 hrs.**

Calendar of Events: Sl.No. 9 to 13: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **22.01.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **23.01.2024 at 16.00 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the e-procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through news papers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

IN THE LIMELIGHT

From left to right: Shots from *Kannur Squad, Nanpakal Nerathu Mayakkam, Kaathal-The Core* and *Rorschach.*

How Mammootty rewrote the rules of stardom yet again in 2023

With Mammootty having one of the best years of his extensive and long career, we dive deep into the roles he essayed in 2023 and why they aren't particularly a flash in the plan for the legendary veteran actor

Shilpa Nair Anand

At 72, with almost 50 years in the film industry; three National Awards for Best Actor, and the most number of (Kerala) State Film Awards for Best Actor (an honour he shares with Mohanlal) under his belt, the Malayalam film industry's man of the year 2023, is, without a doubt, Mammootty.

Watching his films this year, we have been akin to the rapt audience in that scene from Lijo Jose Pellissery's *Nanpakal Nerathu Mayakkam* listening to Mammootty's Sundaram tell a story. We watched amazed as he shape-shifted from James to Sundaram and back in *Nanpakal Nerathu Mayakkam*, became *Kannur Squad's* ASI George Martin, and now, a closeted gay man, Mathew Devassy, in Jeo Baby's *Kaathal - The Core*.

But, here's the thing about Mammootty; the way he chooses films is not a 2023 phenomenon. This has been his approach all through his career.

A versatile actor

Kaathal - The Core happens to be one of those films that grabbed eyeballs and attention outside Kerala as much as it did at home because of the story it told. The sensitive portrayal of homosexuality and same-sex love is heartwarmingly hope-inducing. And when an actor of Mammootty's heft, artistry and social stature essays the role, the usual hullabaloo around a film pegged on the topic is conspicuously absent.

The quiet, reserved Mathew Devassy tugs at our heartstrings especially when he breaks down, unable to take the scrutiny his sexuality is being subjected to. When he hugs his father in tears, one completely empathises with the helplessness of a closeted gay man forced to put up appearances. At that point, the audience forgets Mammootty, all we see is a vulnerable, heartbroken man. For a generation that has grown up watching his films, watching him as Mathew is a tectonic shift. While we have seen this Mammootty before, in films such as *Pathemari, Vatsalyam*, and *Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha*, it was never like this. Even for him, this is a bold choice.

A gay character is not a first in mainstream Malayalam cinema – Prithviraj Sukumaran essayed a gay cop in *Mumbai Police* (2013) as did Nivin Pauly in *Moothon* (2019). However, to Jeo Baby and writers Adarsh Sukumaran and Paulson Skaria's credit, the treatment of the subject, without any stereotyping or cliches, is a first. We 'get' the internal conflict of a closeted gay person, and empathise with the impact of their sexuality on their relationships.

Thanks to *Kaathal - The Core,* Mammootty has been 'discovered' yet again thanks to the discussion around the film. A new generation now knows him thanks to his other films streaming on OTT platforms.

Extensive filmography

The Malayalam movie-watching audience has always known Mammootty. One of the original superstars of the industry, Mammootty has taken chances where ever possible. He experimented with films once he established himself as an actor in the 1980s. Be it mainstream, commercial films or arthouse cinema, he has been and continues to be malleable to the demands of both.

To give the uninitiated an idea of the thespian's oeuvre and range: he won the Rajat Kamal for Best Actor (1989) for two films, *Mathilukal* and *Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha*. The former was an arthouse movie and *Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha*, a commercial blockbuster. Forbes India rated his role in *Mathilukal* among the 25 Greatest Acting Performances of India while commemorating 100 years of Indian cinema. It was a repeat in 1994 when he picked up the Rajat Kamal again for *Vidheyan* and *Ponthan Mada*, and five years later for *Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar*. His choices have been unconventional and unexpected.

One of the best examples of this is, perhaps, the 2005 blockbuster *Rajamanikyam*. The film about the rustic, loudmouthed Bellary Raja was the biggest grosser of the year and the next three too. Be it *Koodevide, 1921, Oru CBI Diary Kurippu* (the first instalment of the *CBI* franchise) of the 1980s or *Amaram, Ponthan Mada* and *Vatsalyam* of the 90s, or movies such as *Munnariyippu, Paleri Manikyam, Loudspeaker,* and *Kadal Kadannu Oru Maathukutty* of the 2000s, he has found a way to mix it up. Of course, the list is punctuated by, to put it plainly, bad, misogynistic movies such as *Kasaba*.

That said, what sets Mammootty apart from his peers across Indian language film industries, is how clued in he is. The tech-savvy actor is as in touch with the world around him as he is with new technology. It extends to a curiosity about trends in filmmaking and the kind of cinema that is being consumed. When his contemporaries took the safer route of reprising hit roles in new avatars in 'new' films, here is one actor who doesn't hesitate to step out of his comfort zone and reinvent himself each time. However, ever so often, as is the case with Mammootty, a Mathew Devassy kind of role comes along. It is a role that propelled him out of his comfort zone.

Reinventing masculinity

For Mammootty, once considered the definition of masculinity by a generation or two of Malayali filmgoers, this is huge. Seen through today's prism, many of his past roles, and films, are problematic. In his and the films' defence, they should be seen in the context of the times they were made in. After all, films reflect the zeitgeist as much as any artistic work. Like *Kaathal - The Core* does with a director like Jeo Baby, who is a storyteller who holds up a mirror to the times, or Lijo Jose whose sensibility is a fantastical world apart from the kind of cinema he has been part of.

For a while, over the years, many of the films coming Mammooty's way seemed to be part of a 'making a film with Mammootty' dream. Some like Amal Neerad's slick blockbuster *Bheeshma Parvam,* released in 2022, is the ultimate fanboy movie. But this is where Mammootty flips the script. *Rorschach, Nanpakal Nerathu Mayakkam, Kannur Squad* and *Kaathal - The Core* have been produced by Mammootty Kampany, his own film production company, perhaps driven by the understanding that the scripts coming his way are rehashes of what he has done before or made by fans or for fans. This is one way of getting selective, and he is sticking his neck out for the films he wants to see made, perhaps, or wants to be a part of.

Each film is different, and directors' sensibilities as varied. It also indicates an astute sense of business. There is thought and deliberation to the process of picking and making a film, as Jeo Baby insinuated in an interview. The director spoke of Mammootty's active involvement in the film, and his suggestions for enhancing the film. Whatever the process is for selecting his films, it seems to be working for Mammootty.

And that brings us to the other thing about him, you never know what is coming next. Just when you think, roles-wise, Mammootty has done it all he springs a surprise on you reminding you that picture *abhi baaki hai.*

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

We celebrated World Human Rights Day on December 10, which marked the adoption of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. A quiz on this historical moment

Ramya Kannan

QUESTION 1

In 1996, tensions between minority ethnic groups flared in Africa. With over 8,00,000 people from one minority group killed in 100 days, this genocide is considered as one of the worst violations of human rights, globally. What are we talking of?

QUESTION 2

Who is known as the Father of the Declaration of Human Rights?

QUESTION 3

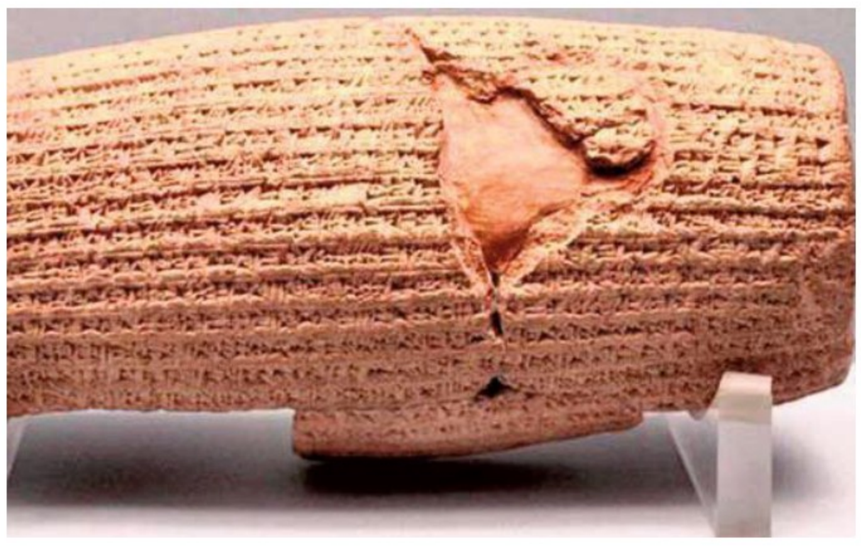
Across the world the debate rages on about a woman's right to make sexual decisions for herself. What significant event in 2012 added heft to this battle?

QUESTION 4

The UN Declaration of Human Rights, besides making the first ever pitch for fundamental rights to be universally protected, also set a world record in 1999. What was the record about?

QUESTION 5

December 2023 marks the —— anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Fill in the blank.



Visual question:
What is the object in this frame? What is its connection with human rights?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In the northern hemisphere, the winter solstice is the moment when the earth's _____ ____ is pointed the farthest away from the sun. **Ans: North pole**
2. If you observe the sun in the sky every day at the same mean solar time, its locations will appear to trace this figure-eight path. **Ans: Analemma**
3. The people in Antarctica celebrate Midwinter Day on this date. **Ans: June 20/21**
4. Name the festival celebrated in India that coincides with the sun completing its winter solstice. **Ans: Makar Sankranti**
5. This is a monument in County Meath, Ireland, built around 3200 BC and is a famous example of archaeoastronomy. **Ans: Newgrange**
Visual: Name this phenomenon. **Ans: Axial precession also known as precession of the equinoxes**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Sagar Sakalley| Varun Kumar| Sunil Kannada| Debanjan Das

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. K. V. Ramanamurthy, Gandhinagar, Vijayawada, wants to know the meaning of 'quo vadis'."

" 'Quo vadis' is a Latin expression meaning 'Whither goest thou?' When St. Peter was persecuted by Nero, he left Rome. On his way, he saw Christ and asked him, 'Quo vadis?'. Christ replied, 'Venio Romam, iterum crucifigi', 'I am coming to Rome to be crucified again'. When he heard this, St. Peter became ashamed of himself and returned to Rome where he was crucified. H. Sieukierwicz wrote a historical novel in 1896 called *Quo Vadis?* "

"Mr. G. Ramachandra, Vijayanagar Engineering College, Bellary, wants to know the meaning of 'temerity'."

"'Temerity' means 'audacity', 'rashness'.

She had the temerity to tell her boss that he was incompetent.

'Temerity' is a formal word. The first 'e' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'pit', the second 'e' like the 'e' in 'bed'. 'I' and 'y' are pronounced like the 'i' in 'pit'. The stress is on the second syllable."

"Mr. M. Balu, MMDA Colony, Madras, wants to know the meaning of 'blue chips'."

"A blue chip is a 'relatively high-priced common stock of a leading company that has a record of uninterrupted payment of dividends over a relatively long period'. Blue chips are used as tokens for money in poker and have a high value. Poker is a card game. The blue chips in the share market derive their meaning from the blue chips of poker.

Some blue their fortune in poker and some in the stock market.

'Blue' as a verb is used in informal contexts. It means 'to spend money recklessly', 'to squander'."

"Mr. B. Murali, Ammaiyappan Street, Royapettah, Madras, wants to know whether the following sentence is correct: 'He has been admitted to hospital and is serious'."

"It should be 'his condition is serious'. Sometimes we read: He has been admitted to hospital and is dangerous. Here again, it should be 'his condition is dangerous'. It is most unlikely that even a dangerous man will be dangerous when he is critically ill."

"Mr. M. G. Sundararajan, RMC Colony, Thanjavur, wants to know the meaning of the expression 'walled city.'"

"A walled city is a city 'having, or enclosed by, a wall or walls'. Some cities were fortified by walls. You have parts of the walls even now."

"Mr. S. A. Kabir, 13 Main Road, Anna nagar, wants to know the meaning of 'philoprogenitive'."

"'Philoprogenitive,' means (a) producing offspring, especially abundantly, prolific (b) pertaining to love for one's own children. In these days of family planning, philoprogenitive people are looked on with disfavour in developing countries. They are granted special concessions in certain western countries.

Published in The Hindu on June 19, 1990.

Word of the day

Gaiety:
a gay feeling; a festive merry feeling

Synonyms: merriment, playfulness

Usage: *His manner professed a gaiety he did not feel.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/gaietypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈgeɪ.ə.ti/, /ˈgeɪ.ɪ.ti/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Set your house in order: HC to FRRO

Court directs Foreigners Regional Registration Office to verify claims in certificates given by hospitals for grant and extension of medical visa

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) should set its house in order and forthwith stop being quixotic in granting extension of medical visa or medical attendant visa to foreigners, said the High Court of Karnataka on noticing that the visa of a Yemen national was extended multiple times without verifying medical records.

The court also directed that the FRRO should enquire into communications issued by hospitals recommending medical visa, medical attendant visa, or extension of these visas and to ensure that the hospitals are not hand in glove with the foreign citizens.

However, the court made it clear that care should be taken that genuine cases do not suffer in the process of verification of medical records.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while rejecting a petition by 49-year-old Mohammed Noman Ahmed Almeri, residing in Bengaluru. The petitioner had questioned the rejection of his application for visa extension.

The petitioner came to India in 2013 on a student visa, valid till August 2014, to pursue a three-year MSc Nursing course in a private college in Bengaluru. However, he could not complete the course owing to the language barrier and "deteriorating health condition."

He returned to Yemen in May 2016, but came back to India in October 2016 on a medical attendant visa, valid till March 2017. He got his visa converted into a medical visa for the purpose of undergoing special medical treatment for his common ailments of hypertension, borderline diabetes, and fatty liver.

He got his medical visa extended multiple times, in the guise of a need for surgery-based medical certificates issued by a private hospital situated on J.C. Road in the city. His last extended visa expired this June 6.

"If these documents could become a matter for conversion from medical attendant visa to medical visa, it shows that the authorities have converted it without even looking into the documents. It is further surprising as to how and on what parameters the medical visa was granted to the petitioner. It is rather shocking how FRRO converted his visa to medical visa without looking into the documents or his ailments," the court observed.

It was at the third extension of his visa during 2021, the court noted, that he had revealed that he married an Indian national in 2019, and on that basis applied for a grant of Indian citizenship but it was not considered by the authorities.

Working as agent

The court, from the information secured by the Ministry of Home Affairs before rejecting his recent application for extension, has noted that the petitioner had not undergone any surgery, but in the garb of undergoing medical treatment, was working as an agent to bring Yemen nationals to India.

He was depicting them as patients and medical attendants based on certificates issued by the hospital on J.C. Road, and those foreign nationals were employed in different places in India.

Also, the court noted that he had already married in Yemen and had three daughters, and brought them also to India on a study visa, which the authorities had recently declined to extend, and that a criminal case for securing visa though fraud was registered against him recently.

Multiple probes into civic works, bitcoin scam

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The alleged 40% commission for civic contracts was another major issue that was widely debated in 2021. FILE PHOTO

REWIND 2023

It's raining investigation in Karnataka, with the constitution of five Special Investigation Teams (SIT) and a commission headed by a retired judge this year after the new Congress government took over the helm in May.

It all began with the State government setting up a SIT to probe the bitcoin scam that rocked Karnataka between 2020 and 2021 when the BJP government was in power.

After allegations of the involvement of police officers and politicos in the scam surfaced when the Congress was in Opposition, the party had promised to investigate the scam. In July, the SIT was formed.

The alleged 40% bribery for civic contracts was another major issue that was widely debated in 2021. The contractors went after the BJP government, which inadvertently helped the Congress during the Assembly elections. The new government formed four SITs and the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission in August to probe the allegations.

These SITs headed by IAS officers conducted investigation into civic works executed under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) between 2019-20 and 2022-23 for four months.

This irked contractors as the formation of SITs further stalled their payments which were pending for the past three years.

The High Court of Karnataka in December found merit in the petition of the contractors and stayed all the investigation, forcing the government to wind up the SITs and handing over the same to Mr. Das.

The retired judge will now be probing works executed under the Public Works, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, the Water Resources, and the Minor Irrigation Departments, including the BBMP, and the Bangalore Development Authority. The term of the commission has been extended till May 2024. Despite four months of investigation into civic works, the outcome was bleak, with only one SIT that probed road infrastructure work submitting an interim report.

IAS officer Amlan Aditya Biswas submitted an over 400-page report to the government in December. According to sources, he has flagged impropriety in the works.

Bitcoin scam

Another major investigation which is under way is the bitcoin probe. The SIT under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) headed by Additional Director-General of Police (ADGP) Manish Karbikar has gathered information about the scam even as the team is speaking with hacker Srikrishna Ramesh aka Sriki.

So far, the team has questioned Central Crime Branch police officers and issued a letter to Director-General of Prisons Malini Krishnamoorthy, seeking details of prison officials who were on duty when Sriki was kept in the central prison. According to sources, the investigation has now gained momentum.

CAT 2023 results: Candidate from Karnataka secures 100 percentile

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

One candidate from Karnataka was among the 14 who secured 100 percentile in the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2023, the all-India entrance exam for admission into the Indian Institute of Managements (IIMs) and other top B-schools in the country.

The CAT 2023 results were declared on Thursday and all who scored perfect scores are male candidates.

Among those, 11 are from the Engineering stream and three from non-Engineering stream.

A release stated that 29 candidates (28 males and one female), including four from Karnataka, managed to secure 99.99 percentile score.

Including one candidate from Karnataka, a total of 29 candidates (all males) managed to score 99.98 percentile.

The CAT 2023 was conducted at 375 test centres across 167 cities in India on November 26 in three shifts.

Around 2.88 lakh candidates appeared for the exam, out of the around 3.28 lakh registered eligible candidates.

The release further stated that "IIMs will now release their shortlists for subsequent admission processes based on, among other things, the CAT 2023 scores. As many as 91 non-IIM institutions will also use the CAT 2023 scores this year for admission into their management programmes. The details of the non-IIM institutions that are registered with CAT 2023 can be found at the website."

From Page One

Withdraw orderlies from retired IPS officers' homes, says State govt.

"Even though the system is officially not in force, it is still in practice unofficially," the sources added.

Waste of skill

"The State government spent crores of rupees on recruitment, training, and salaries of police personnel serving in reserve force who are skilled and trained on a par with the armed forces. However, it is unfortunate that they render service as domestic help to serve IPS officers and their family members. While the IPS officers used to get 3 to 4 orderlies, the SP or DCP level officials got one or two orderlies depending on their contact," sources in the department said.

Constable succumbs to burns, blames female friend

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 30-year-old police constable, who was allegedly set on fire by his female friend a fortnight ago, succumbed to his injuries at Victoria Hospital on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Sanjay Rajaiah. He was attached to the Basavanagudi police station.

According to the police, when he was admitted to hospital he claimed that he had sustained burns accidentally while cooking.

However, two days before he died, he changed his statement accusing his female friend Rani of setting him on fire, after a heated argument.

She later doused the fire and brought him to Victoria Hospital for treatment, he had alleged. As she was present at the time of admission, Sanjay gave the statement that it was an accident, he claimed.

In his statement, Sanjay said that he had met Rani while she was working at the station and they got into a relationship. Rani, who was married and had two children, was working as a Home Guard at the station but quit to join as a security guard at a private firm.

A few days later, Sanjay realised that Rani was having an affair with another man and started avoiding him when he questioned her. Following arguments, Sanjay in December went to her house and an argument ensued when Rani threatened to set him on fire, he alleged.

Sanjay went to a nearby petrol pump and returned with a bottle of petrol challenging Rani to set him on fire. Rani took the bottle and poured the petrol, before setting him on fire, Sanjay, in his statement, told the police.

When Sanjay screamed for help, Rani doused the fire and took him to the hospital and requested him to tell the doctor that it was an accident, he had said in his complaint.

Based on the complaint, the jurisdictional Hanumanthanagar police registered a case of attempt to murder recently and transferred the case to Puttenahalli police as the incident occurred in their jurisdiction.

However, Sanjay developed complications and succumbed to his injuries on Thursday. The police have registered a case of murder against Rani and have taken her into custody. Rani told the police that Sanjay was harassing her and threatening to commit suicide frequently.

On December 6, he brought a bottle of petrol and poured it on himself after an argument and set himself on fire to scare her, she claimed.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (December 22, Friday), the following explainers are available:

- Post Office Bill, 2023 | State surveillance and privacy concerns explained **bit.ly/postofficebill**
- As JN.1 emerges as variant of interest, time to evaluate preparedness **bit.ly/preparednessvariant**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, DEC. 22		
RISE	06:37	SET 17:59
RISE	14:08	SET 02:06
SATURDAY, DEC. 23		
RISE	06:37	SET 17:59
RISE	14:52	SET 03:00
SUNDAY, DEC. 24		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:00
RISE	15:40	SET 03:57

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	22
Mysuru	29	23
Bengaluru	26	18

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be slight cool. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Police hold awareness event on drugs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka police conducted an awareness programme in 2,300 schools and colleges across the State recently against the use and the supply of narcotics especially in schools and colleges.

According to an official release, the awareness programme was carried out as per the directions of the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police and Head of Police Force, Karnataka.

Ill effects

Officials from the rank of PSI upto SP and DCP were asked to conducted awareness programmes through presentations, skits, debates and talks against the ill effects of drugs and narcotics.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Sorry state: At the housing quarters provided for slum-dwellers by the Karnataka Slum Development Board at Laggere in Bengaluru, residents say dilapidated roads and blocked sanitary chambers are their primary problems. RAVICHANDRAN N.

Basic amenities remain a pipe dream for relocated slum-dwellers in Bengaluru

At many housing quarters, the lack of even basic facilities overshadows the relief residents got by having concrete roofs over their heads, finds **Jahnavi T.R.**

A little off the western corridor of the Outer Ring Road (ORR), which runs along the perimeter of Bengaluru, less than a kilometre away from Laggere bridge, stand hundreds of identical buildings along *kachcha* roads in stark contrast to the other sights along the arterial road. In these buildings, commonly called "slum quarters", live thousands of people who were previously staying in small sheds or tents.

The Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB) has built over 16,000 houses on an expanse of 60 acres in this area. These housing units, each measuring roughly 300 sq. ft, are occupied by a variety of people such as construction labourers, domestic workers, garments unit workers, drivers, teachers, and their families. The average income of these families ranges between ₹10,000 and ₹15,000 a month.

There are three floors above the ground floor in every building and each floor has four houses. Although these buildings were handed over to the dwellers a little over a decade ago, they appear to be significantly older. In many houses, the concrete has chipped away so much that the steel reinforcement of the pillars is visible. One cannot ignore the stench, the buzz of insects, and the sight and smell of sewage flowing along these quarters.

A few men who were playing 'chakkar' (a folk game) stopped midway and accompanied this reporter to give a tour of their locality. "Look at the condition of this road. It is in a shambles. We have seen three or four motorists fall on this unlevelled road in the last few days alone," says Naga Reddy, a construction worker. He is the in-house repairer of the roofs and walls of the buildings that get damaged due to seepage of rainwater.

At the Laggere quarters, the residents say dilapidated roads and blocked sanitary chambers are their primary problems. "We pool resources from our own pockets, which might come up to a few thousand, to get these chambers cleaned. As the buildings are on different levels and because there are no restraining walls, sewage easily flows into low-lying areas, and when it rains, the roads get flooded, making it impossible for children to even access the government school in the locality," says Aravind, who works in a private company.

Law and order problem

The lack of law and order is another problem the residents flag. "If you are a stranger walking by on these roads after sunset, then there is a high chance that you will be mugged. The road that provides us access to the bus stop on the main road turns into an *adda* for some boys to consume alcohol and drugs at night. It is scary, especially for women and children, to walk on the roads," a woman from Laggere housing quarters said.

> KSDB authorities look at development only through the lens of constructing buildings, but they don't care about the condition of the people who will have to live in these buildings.
>
> **JANSI,** programme coordinator of Slum Mahila Sanghatane

Woes galore: There are as many as 16,000 dwelling units at the Laggere quarters and the problems that haunt the residents are also too many. RAVICHANDRAN N.

The Laggere housing quarters for slum-dwellers are said to be the biggest in the city, and yet, the problems that haunt the area are too many. Similarly, in many other quarters in the city, be it at Nayandahalli, Kasavanahalli, Koramangala or those located on the city's outskirts, the lack of even basic facilities overshadows the relief the slum-dwellers got by having concrete roofs over their heads.

Poor quality

Activists who work closely with slum-dwellers allege that the quality of the houses is below par. "According to the Central government norms, these houses should have an area of 330 sq. ft. But at many places, citing land ratio problems, the KSDB has provided houses with an area of just 270 sq. ft or 300 sq. ft. These houses are not fit for human beings. If you look at the 800 houses provided at Nayandahalli [in south-west Bengaluru], under the Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) or at Laggere under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), they look as if they are decades old because of poor quality of work," A. Narasimhamurthy, State convener of Slum Janandolana Karnataka, says.

The houses lack even the basic necessities – be it drinking water supply or drainage, says Jansi, programme coordinator of Slum Mahila Sanghatane. "Slum-dwellers have been allotted housing quarters mostly on the outskirts of the city. They get drinking water once in three days or they have to pay dealers under local politicians to get water every day. In some houses, the windows and doors have already been broken. The houses on the ground floor reek of sewage stench," she says.

"KSDB authorities look at development only through the lens of constructing buildings, but they do not care about the condition of the people who will have to live in these buildings," she says.

Although these buildings were handed over to the dwellers a little over a decade ago, they appear to be significantly older owing to alleged poor quality of construction. RAVICHANDRAN N.

Officials from the Housing Department said that while the process of relocation of slum-dwellers, who were previously living along the *rajakaluves* (storm-water drains) and other unsuitable places, was done by the KSDB, the onus of maintenance of these quarters is largely on the urban local body (ULB). "After we hand over the houses, the respective ULBs that collect taxes are supposed to provide maintenance by utilising the slum cess. The residents of slum quarters can demand it from them. The Housing Department gets only meagre funds for maintenance and we chip in at places where the conditions are really bad," says Naveen Raj Singh, Principal Secretary, Housing Department.

'25,961 houses handed over'

During the recently concluded legislature session, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Minister for Housing, Waqf, and Minority Affairs, said that under various schemes, a total of 25,961 houses have been handed over to slum-dwellers from select areas in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits.

There are a total of 435 slums that come under the KSDB (in the BBMP limits), out of which, 410 have been "declared as slums while the other 25 have been identified", the Minister said. "Under schemes such as JNNURM - BSUP, Rajiv Awas Yojana, and PM Awas Yojana, grants were approved since 2005 for the construction of 59,429 houses. Of them, construction of 25,961 houses has been completed and 7,313 houses are in the last stages of construction," Khan told the Assembly.

Activists, however, allege that the government's claim is far from reality. Many of those who have been allotted houses are still struggling to get the possession certificates, they say.

"The numbers the department provided in the Assembly are different from ground reality. There are 400 to 500 undeclared slums in Bengaluru. Housing schemes have been around since the 1980s and not since 2005, and the implementation should have been far better by now," says Narasimhamurthy.

He adds, "At Ullala [in south-west Bengaluru], for example, three big slums have been shifted to New Colony and Ambedkar Nagar. As many as 150 dwelling units in these slums were demolished in 2013 under the RAY and the residents have made payments for their new houses under the scheme. Yet, construction of the houses has not started. There are many cases like this which are shown as 'progress' when these answers are provided [in the legislature]. Only 60% of what they claim might have been implemented."

Activists say that the process of relocation of slums has brought to the fore several socio-economic problems as the allotment of houses under these schemes is often decided by political leaders and local MLAs.

Worries, uncertainties

For many relocated slum-dwellers, the eviction from their dwellings became a source of uncertainty as many of them have remained homeless for almost a decade now. "At the Vinoba slum in J.C. Nagar [in central Bengaluru], eviction notices were served to dwellers in 2014 and till today, they have not got their houses. It is the same problem for slum-dwellers from Kalasipalya. It is a difficult task to get these houses," Jansi says.

After being shifted to a different place under the housing scheme, the relocated people often have no means of making a livelihood in the new areas. They usually travel to the areas where their previous settlements were located in search of jobs. "If they are relocated somewhere on the outskirts of the city, what jobs will they find there? Even those who are working as domestic workers near their previous settlements are rendered jobless after being relocated to the city's outskirts. Some people travel 30 km to 40 km to earn a livelihood," Jansi says.

When eviction notices come in the middle of the academic year, the relocation has also led to children dropping out of school, which has also allegedly given rise to cases of child labour and child marriages.

The relocation of slum-dwellers was aimed at improving the quality of their lives. But what the relocated people feel about it is best summed up by what a resident of the Laggere housing quarters said: "We shifted from tents to cement houses, but otherwise, not much has changed in our lives. We are still slum-dwellers and those who care about slum-dwellers are very few."

Dragees @ Sowl, Chennai

The idea behind Sowl's Christmas offerings this year was to "create a blend between the classic and modern". Which is why their menu features the likes of dragees, chocolate bon bons and "classics like a mince pie and of course our rich and boozy plum cake," says chef Akram Ali, corporate pastry chef at Pricol Gourmet, that runs Sowl, as well as the dessert studio, Delish.

Their new launches this year include the spiced granola, almond spread, German cookies, variants of dragees: cranberry dark chocolate, pistachio white chocolate, and cinnamon raisin, and mince pies.

₹1,500 for an assorted box of dragees. To order, call 99445 03703

The stollen, panettone and kul kul get a gourmet makeover this Christmas as they turn travel gifts

The travelling Christmas treats

Nidhi Adlakha
Nidhi.adlakha@thehindu.co.in

If you are looking for edible Christmas gifts to share with friends and family this season, here are a few bakeries in Chennai, Bengaluru and Mysore doling out stollen, gourmet kul kuls, and pies with a long shelf life.

Iron ore stollen @ Sapa Bakery, Mysore

The classic German Christmas bread is back at Sapa for Christmas. While gourmet versions now include marzipan, candied fruits and spices, they are known for their Iron ore Mountain Stollen. "The recipe is different from a classic Dresden stollen in terms of its richness and moisture that we achieve by adding more butter. Made with a roux of milk and flour which binds more moisture into the dough and adding a lot of almond flour to the mix, which adds fat and moisture again," says founder-head baker Dina Weber who lets the butter, almond flour and in-house spice mix soak for 24 hours before making the dough.

Over 900 of these delicious stollens have been shipped this year, and Dina believes they make for a great gift, not just because of their shelf-life (upto two months), but the tin packaging that "makes it exciting to open".

Priced at ₹1,750, @sapabakery on Instagram

Gourmet kul kuls @ Lamara, Bengaluru

Traditional kul kuls get a gourmet makeover here. Co-founder and chef Rajat Braganza says this inspiration came from his days studying culinary art in Switzerland. "One of my indulgences was freshly fried churros served with chocolate sauce, and dusted with cinnamon sugar. They were typically found at the Christmas street markets, and made for a perfect snack during winter," he says. Now, he has elevated the simple kul kul by coating it with dark chocolate on one side and white chocolate on the other and then "adding a generous dusting of cinnamon and orange-scented sugar".

Lamara also has chocolate truffles, a sticky toffee Christmas pudding, and hampers to choose from.

Kul kuls at ₹975 for 500 gms. For orders, visit lamara.in or call 9606020090

Panettone @ Pumpkin Tales, Chennai

As Chindi Varadarajulu expands the virtual presence of her Chennai-based restaurant/bakery Pumpkin Tales to cities across India, it is time to savour her classic panettone. It is created in collaboration with Italian pastry chef Mirko Tognetti, who is now in the city to personally oversee the preparation. "Made using candied orange, raisins, and chocolate, the panettones undergo a 36-hour nurturing process, including delicate hand-shaping, precise baking, and a unique inverted cooling method. The starter has been brought from Italy and the panettone doesn't have commercial yeast," says Chindi, who says they have a shelf life of two months.

Other long-lasting treats include butter tarts in three flavours – white chocolate and raisin, white chocolate and coconut, dark chocolate and cranberry; the popular Bounty bar made with toasted coconut, walnuts, chocolate chunks over a base of crushed digestive biscuits; and crisps featuring raisins and maple syrup.

Panettone at ₹2,200 (classic), and ₹2,400 (chocolate) on amazon.in

STEPOUT

Go the whole hog

Curly Sue Pork is offering a plethora of mouth-watering pork dishes using traditional recipes from Coorg and Bengaluru. These slow cooked Christmas delights include rosemary roasted pork rack, roast duck with stuffing, Thai sai oua sausages and Karthakaad smoked ham, which need only to be heated and served. Festive ready-to-eats, burger patties, pickles, spreads and preserves are also available. Whatsapp 99000 26681 to order.

Baker's delight

This Christmas bake sale brings together Sapa Bakery's popular stollen, galettes by Cafe Plume, Daewoo's tarts, and croissants by Mumbai's House of Amel to name a few. Other treats include House of Sapor's lasagnas, Gobble Cake's bombolinis, Ulo ice cream, pretzels by Backer, brioche doughnuts by Bakeree, and some pumpkin spiced latte by The Blue Wagon Coffee.

On December 24, Sunday, at Courtyard, Shanti Nagar. 11 am to 3 pm. Call 7338677996 for details.

State govt. to give additional ₹3.5 lakh per house under PM Awas Yojana

While earlier beneficiaries had to pay ₹4.5 lakh under the scheme, they will now have to pay ₹1 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to boost housing for the poor, the State government on Thursday decided to provide additional financial assistance of ₹3.5 lakh per house being built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. About 1.80 lakh houses allotted between 2015 and 2018 are stuck at various stages of construction as beneficiaries were unable to pay their share.

Around 1.8 lakh houses allotted between 2015 and 2018 under PM Awas Yojana are stuck at various stages of construction as beneficiaries are unable to pay their share. FILE PHOTO

While the Cabinet that met here on Thursday approved ₹500 crore to immediately complete about 48,700 homes that are nearing completion, the rest of the money would be released in stages. "While about 1.80 lakh homes had been allotted, they could not be completed as the beneficiaries failed to pay their share of ₹4.5 lakh. Some have paid varying amounts, but not exceeding a total of ₹1 lakh. Since 2018, not one house could be sanctioned," Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan told presspersons here after the Cabinet meeting.

"In fact, while the beneficiaries had to pay a total of about ₹6,691 crore, a total of ₹110 crore had been received. While earlier beneficiaries had to pay ₹4.5 lakh, they will now have to pay ₹1 lakh. The government will now fund the remaining ₹3.35 lakh besides the ₹1.25 lakh given for general and ₹2 lakh for SC/ST families as financial assistance," he said. He added that over the next two years, the government intends to complete and hand over 1.80 lakh homes.

The Minister also said that the Centre, whose share in the housing scheme is ₹1.5 lakh, took back ₹1.32 lakh as GST charged at the rate of 18%. "The Chief Minister will write to the Centre seeking waiver of GST on housing for the poor," he said.

Illegally parked funds

Among other decisions taken by the Cabinet was studying and framing policy to identify government funds that are parked illegally outside the treasury by various departments. According to Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil, the Karnataka Irrigation Rules, 1965, will be amended to increase the royalty on water supplied to industries through lakes, canals, or reservoirs from the existing ₹50,000 to ₹3 lakh per mcft. The Cabinet also discussed having the joint session of the legislature and Budget session during February, dates of which would be announced later, he added.

Mr. Patil said that the government will now spend ₹120 crore to ensure daily supply of nutritious food to 11 tribes found in eight districts in the State. The tribes that have been identified for the scheme are Koraga, Jenukuruba, Soliga, Erava, Kadukuruba, Malekudiya, Siddi, Hasalaru, Goudalu, Gonda, and Bettakuruba.

Yuva Nidhi registration to be launched in State on Dec. 26

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress government will launch on December 26 the registration for Yuvanidhi, its fifth 'guarantee' scheme that will provide financial assistance to unemployed youth, based on a monthly self-declaration. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) will be rolled out on Vivekananda Jayanti on January 12 at a public event in Shivamogga.

The State government has mapped about 5.29 lakh graduates and diploma-holders who have passed out during the academic year 2022-23 to be eligible to apply for the scheme that is estimated to cost about ₹250 crore during this financial year. The launch of Yuvanidhi will also mark the implementation of all five guarantees given by the Congress before 2023 Assembly polls.

About 4.81 lakh graduates and about 48,100 diploma holders will be passing out in 2022-23. The government is estimating that the cost of implementing the guarantees will go up to ₹1,250 crore in the next financial year, and will increase to ₹2,500 crore the following year.

The scheme entails monthly financial assistance of ₹3,000 to graduates and postgraduates, and ₹1,500 for diploma-holders who have not found employment six months after graduating. Those who are domicile of Karnataka for a minimum of six years and who have passed out in 2022-23 are eligible. Beneficiaries will receive financial assistance for two years.

Candidates who are self-employed, continuing higher education, and those employed in government or government-aided institutions and in the private sector are not eligible.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will take part in the event to launch registration in Bengaluru on December 26," Medical Education and Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Minister Sharan Prakash Patil told reporters in Bengaluru on Thursday.

"We have trust in our youngsters. There is no need to be cynical about registration for the scheme. DBT payment will be based on monthly self-declaration. We are also aware that 100% physical verification is not possible, and we will go for 5% random checking," the Minister said in response to concerns of fraud.

Registration can be done through Grama One, Karnataka One, Bengaluru One, Bapuji Seva Kendra and Sevasindhu portal free of cost. Among the documents required are SSLC and PU marks card, ration card and employment registration card.

Economists push for steep hike in tax on tobacco products

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With consumption of tobacco products claiming the lives of over 13 lakh people in the country every year, economists and health experts suggested a steep increase in the tax rates on tobacco products to disincentivise consumers from purchasing them.

Currently, the Centre imposes 53% tax on cigarettes, 16% on beedi, and 64% on smokeless-tobacco products. Taxes on tobacco products have largely remained unchanged in the post-GST regime. "With Indian people largely price sensitive," they suggested hike in taxes.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao participating in a workshop on tobacco taxes at ISEC, Bengaluru, on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Health tax'

In his remarks at the "Consultation workshop on tobacco taxes: a tool for health and economic gains" at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said increase of "health tax" or excise tax on tobacco is one of the most effective tools for reducing tobacco consumption". The department would strictly enforce a ban of sale of tobacco products within 100 metres radius of educational institutions in the State.

Economists S. Madheswaran, ISEC; Rijo M. John of Rajagiri College, Kochi; public health experts Narender Kumar, principal consultant, National Policy, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), New Delhi; and Upendra Bhojani, director, Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru, said that the nexus between various stakeholders and conflicting priorities of various Central Ministers led to stagnation of taxes in the post-GST regime.

They said that India has one of the lowest prices for tobacco products and there is a need to increase taxes. The Parliament Standing Committee on Health in its 139 report (2022) too recommended a hike in taxes, they said. They proposed a tax rate of 75% each on cigarettes and smokeless tobacco and 63% on beedi. More than 40 countries have levied 75% taxes on tobacco to discourage people from its consumption.

Statistics

Mr. Madheswaran said India has close to 30 crore tobacco users - 20 crore smokeless tobacco users and 10 crore smokers - which is 28.6% of the population.

The annual economic costs from all tobacco products for the population aged above 35 was estimated at ₹1,773.4 billion in the year 2017 amounting to 1.04% of India's GDP. "It is found that for every ₹100 that was received as excise taxes from tobacco products, ₹816 of costs is imposed on society through the consumption of tobacco and spending on tobacco use-induced diseases. Tobacco use is also known to impoverish 15 million Indians every year," Mr. Madheswaran said.

Mr. Narender Kumar said reduction in the consumption of tobacco products would increase well-being of the people and would increase economic productivity and demographic dividend to reach the target of a $5 trillion economy in the next five years as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It would also achieve the goal of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Kumaraswamy and Deve Gowda meet Modi; seat sharing likely to be announced by Jan.-end

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular), which earlier announced a pre-poll alliance for the ensuing Lok Sabha polls, are likely to arrive at a seat-sharing agreement before the end of January. Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and JD(S) party president H.D. Kumaraswamy announced that he will not contest the polls.

Former Prime Minister and JD(S) national president H.D. Deve Gowda, along with his sons H.D. Revanna and H.D. Kumaraswamy, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday.

Mr. Kumaraswamy told presspersons in New Delhi after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Sansath Bhavan on Thursday, along with his father and party supremo H.D. Deve Gowda, that there was no confusion in seat sharing. "We will finalise who will contest in which constituency. There could be problems in one or two constituencies that will be addressed. What is important is trust and we should preserve it." He added: "We will ask only those seats where we are confident of winning. We have a report on it and we will work as per this."

Incidentally, Mr. Kumaraswamy met the Prime Minister for the first time after the alliance had been announced following a meeting with BJP president J.P. Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah a couple of months ago. Besides Mr. Deve Gowda, his brother and former Minister H.D. Revanna, nephew Prajwal Revanna, and party legislator C.N. Balakrishna accompanied him. While politics topped the agenda of the meeting, party sources said that they also discussed falling prices of copra and pending irrigation projects of the State, among other issues.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "I am restricted to State politics. There are people who believe that it would be good for Karnataka if I remain in State politics. I have decided to remain here." However, when asked if he would become a Central Minister, he said: "We will have to wait and watch. Anything can happen in politics."

Regarding his son Nikhil Kumaraswamy's chances of contesting, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "Nikhil will campaign in all the 28 constituencies. People are forcing him to contest from Mandya. There is sympathy for him among people because he has lost twice already. However, he will not contest the polls."

BJP State unit hopeful of getting approval of top leadership to constitute new team of office-bearers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, who met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Thursday, said he is hopeful of getting clearance from central leaders for constituting a new team of State office-bearers and preparatory plans ahead of Lok Sabha polls.

Sources close to Mr. Vijayendra expressed confidence that the new State president will get clearance for both the proposals during this visit. "If things go well, a new office-bearers' team will be in place within a week," the sources said. It is a practice to constitute a new team of office-bearers with the appointment of new State president. In this case, the party leaders are waiting for the new team to begin preparations for the Lok Sabha polls. Mr. Vijayendra is said to be keen on a "water-tight plan" for the Lok Sabha polls marked by tours and micro-level overseeing. He is expected to broach these issues with the party Central leaders for getting their clearances.

Sources described his meeting with Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah as "courtesy visit" after taking over as the new State president.

Mr. Vijayendra later took to social media to say that the meeting with Mr. Modi inspired him to win highest number of Lok Sabha seats from Karnataka as a "gift" to Mr. Modi. He also said Mr. Shah's inspiring words had given him elephantine strength.

Gruha Lakshmi: 3-day camp to be held from Dec. 27 to resolve issues

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A three-day camp will be organised at all village panchayats from December 27 to resolve issues related to the guarantee scheme Gruha Lakshmi. The scheme, which was launched on July 19 this year, has so far enrolled 1.17 lakh women heads of families for monthly disbursement of ₹2,000.

A release stated that about 1.5 lakh beneficiaries were yet to link their bank accounts with their Aadhaar numbers. Similarly, about 70,000 beneficiaries had linked their Aadhaar with bank accounts that were not in operation. There was a dire need to link bank accounts with Aadhaar for smooth transfer of money through direct beneficiary transfer scheme. Following this Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had instructed the authorities to hold panchayat-level camps, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on those days.

The camps, which would be presided by Panchayat Development Officers, and attended byofficials, including Bapuji Service Centres' managers and Electronic Delivery of Citizens Services teams besides India Post Payment Bank representatives, will resolve all the technical issues related to the scheme.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Elect.),
South Zone, Jayanagar, BBMP, Bengaluru.

No: BBMP/EE/ELE/South/TEND/02/2023-24 Date: 20-12-2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Elect), South Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites Tenders in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP / KPWD / CPWD / Railway / MES / National Highway or any Other equivalent Central / State Government Organizations for the Electrical Works as detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Providing LED Street Lights, Park Lights, Poles, Timer Switches and Other Connected Accessories to BTM Layout Constituency in Ward No. **146, 147, 148, 151, 152, 172, 173, 176.**	**400.00**	**Rs. 2.00 Lakhs Through Online Payment & Rs. 4.00 Lakhs Through Bank Guarantee.**

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 22-12-2023. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **28-12-2023 at 11.30 Hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer (Elect.), South Zonal Office Building, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560011. 3)** Bids must be Submitted online through e-Procurement Portal **on or before 16.00 Hrs. on 05-01-2024. 4)** Technical Bids will be Opened on **06-01-2024 at 16.30 Hrs. 5)** Financial Bids will be Opened on **09-01-2024 at 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Elect.), South Zone, BBMP.

RAICHUR, BALLARI, KOPPAL & VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT MILK PRODUCERS CO-OP SOCIETIES UNION LTD.,
Ballari Dairy, Near Fire Station, Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Ballari-583104.
e-mail: mdrbkmul@gmail.com

No: RBKVMUL/PUR/KPPP/2302 /2023 Date: 21-12-2023

RE - TENDER NOTIFICATION (thorugh KPPP Portal Only)

The Raichur, Ballari, Koppal & Vijayanagara Districts Co-op Milk Producers Societies Union Ltd, Ballari invites E-procurement Tenders in Two cover system (Technical & Financial Bid) from Eligible tenderers.

Sl.No	E-Procurement Tender No	TENDER DETAILS	EMD (in Rs)
01	KMF/2023-24/IND0266/CALL-3	Supply , Installation, testing and Commissioning of Online Coding Machine along with its standard accessories	1,42,500/-
02	KMF/2023-24/IND0265/CALL-3	Supply of Ammonia Gas on ARC	13,500/-
03	KMF/2023-24/IND0081/CALL-3	Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of Mechanical high speed type Servo Driven FFS-packing machine along with its standard accessories (Under Buy-Back Scheme) at Ballari Dairy.	62,500/-
		Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of Mechanical high speed type Servo Driven FFS-packing machine along with its standard accessories at Budugumpa Dairy.	67,500/-

1) Tender schedule down loading date from **22-12-2023 to 05-01-2023 (2)** Last Date of Submission of Tenders **06-01-2024 at 5.00**PM **(3)** Time & Date of Technical Tender Bid **08-01-2024 at 11.00**am. **(4) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-MANAGING DIRECTOR
RBKVMUL, BALLARI

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Mr. N VENUGOPAL (50)
Assistant Engineer - Printing,
The Hindu, Vijayawada
Passed away on 21-12-2023.
Flat No: A-203, Maha Lakshmi Towers
Near Vinayaka Temple,
TADIGADAPA, Vijayawada - 521137
Ph: 99483 77774

REMEMBRANCE

THIRD ANNIVERSARY
22.12.2023

Dr.Geetha Baskar
3 years passed
Memories Remain Eternal
Fondly remembered by Family and Friends

Seventeen years of Forest Rights Act: ATREE brings out resource materials for laypersons

An ATREE team comprising Adivasi youth has been working in several States for the last five years to help forest villages secure their Community Forest Resource Rights

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Public meeting on Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights oragnised by ATREE team .

Earlier this week on October 18, the landmark Forest Rights Act (FRA) enacted by parliament in 2006 marked its 17 anniversary.

On the occasion, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and The Environment (ATREE), a Bengaluru-based research institution, released a bunch of resources including four videos on FRA, a documentary on the team's work in Bastar, a webGIS mapping tool and a template for community forest rights management plan prepared in collaboration with TISS Mumbai. The initiative is under ATREE's Forests, Governance and Livelihoods Programme.

The resources draw upon the institution's work in Central India. An ATREE team comprising Adivasi youth has been working in states including Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Eastern Maharashtra and Telangana for the last five years to help forest villages in these states secure their community forest resources rights (CFR).

Videos for laypersons

"The four videos are meant to explain to the layperson the essence of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), why it was introduced and what it tries to do. Made in simple language, they target the Hindi heartland," says Sharachchandra Lele, senior fellow at ATREE. Mr. Lele has been leading ATREE's 'CFR in Central India initiative.' He notes that many people, including urban dwellers, don't understand the purpose of FRA which seeks to rectify the historical injustices committed to forest communities since the time of British colonial rule. The prevalent notion is that the Act is a political gimmick to legalise encroachments of forest land. FRA recognises the forest dweller's rights over their land and the community's rights to manage and conserve the forest. Community Forest Resources Rights and Individual Forest Rights form two integral parts of FRA.

The Community Forest Resources (CFR) Rights recognise the rights of the community over the forest land within village boundaries and allows to collect minor forest produce, use grazing lands and water resources, and protect and regenerate any community resource.

Highlighting groundwork

Phulsingh Nag is a 24-year-old belonging to the Dhurva Tribe in Bastar. He has been working with the ATREE team in Bastar for more than two years as an FRA coordinator. Mr. Nag notes that awareness building among the villagers has been a challenge.

"Initially, when we began the implementation work, many people did not believe that Forest Rights could be granted through the Gram Sabha for their traditional forest lands. However, through a series of meetings targeting women, youth, and other forest-dwelling communities in each village, along with documentary screenings highlighting the implementation and benefits of FRA, belief slowly took root."

The ATREE team has so far facilitated 56 formal title deeds that recognise the CFR rights of the villages in Bastar.

The documentary in Hindi sheds light on such grassroot level work of the team.

"Villages getting the CFR title deeds is a nice outcome of our work in Bastar, but it has been achieved through a certain process of building the capacity of the local Adivasi youth. That's the highlight of the documentary," Mr. Lele explains.

Laxmi Kanth Kashyap who belongs to the Koya tribe in Bastar is testimony to this. Mr. Kashyap who speaks Gondi and Halbi languages had been working independently on the implementation of FRA and PESA prior to his association with ATREE.

Mapping progress

"After joining ATREE, I have enhanced my capacity in terms of tools, technology, and community-building skills," he says.

The team has also come up with a webGIS tool that would allow one to see the terrains of a particular village as captured by Google satellite images with administrative boundaries overlaid on top of it. The ATREE team has also added to the map an estimate of the CFR area that each village could get.

According to Mr. Lele, the mapping tool would allow policymakers to see the areas where CFR rights should be provided and how far they are from reaching the end goal and put pressure on them for the implementation of FRA.

It would also enable the villagers to see their terrain through an administrative lens, he notes.

"One of the biggest lacunae we found was that villagers have almost never seen the village maps or the forest department maps. The two departments also don't talk to each other. They don't know how their area is represented in the other departments' maps."

A template for management

While states like Maharashtra and Odisha have done significant work in terms of issuing the CFR title deeds, Mr. Lele notes that there has been very little guidance from the central ministry on what happens next, although the law requires them to create a management plan.

The Government of Maharashtra notified 'Guidelines for CFR Management Planning' in September 2017. These were drafted with the help of ATREE and TISS.

"We have now brought out an updated version with a wider perspective based on more feedback from the ground. The document is available in Hindi and English. The idea is that activists, NGOs or even villagers themselves could read it and figure it out."

FRA implementation

In Karnataka the situation with respect to FRA has remained complicated. Except in pockets of southern Karnataka, awareness is scarce on community forest rights, says Mr. Lele.

"In B.R. Hills, the Soligas got community rights in 2010. But after that, there has not been much progress, be it in Nagarhole or Bandipur or other such places. In the rest of the State, there has been complete apathy due to lack of knowledge about these rights."

In Shimoga, 'encroachment' continues to be a sensitive issue. The Linganamakki dam constructed in 1964 led to displacement of several people. Many of them, who did not get any compensatory land, simply moved to other parts of the forest and were later labelled as encroachers.

It gets more complicated in other parts of the state.

In the Western Ghats districts for example, some communities within villages have individual rights over forests.

"In Kodagu they are called Bane lands, in Dakshina Karnataka they are called Kumki lands, in Uttara Kannada they are called Soppinabetta lands. So, when the village itself is divided between those who already hold forest privileges and those who don't, it gets complicated. In such situations when you say there should be an application for a community right, the question of which community and which forest it should be applied for arises," says Mr. Lele.

Fight or flight

A wing of a bird got stuck in a thread used for flying kites near Kendriya Vidyalaya school at Ulsoor. After getting calls, the Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre and urban animal wild rescue NGOs arrived at the spot battled for one hour and succeeded in rescuing it.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 22, 1973

Caustic Soda Project in Karwar

Bangalore, Dec 17: From present indications the 100 tonnes per day caustic soda plant at Binaga near Karwar will go on stream towards the end of 1974. Most of the foreign equipment has arrived on site and erection of machinery will commence within the next three months. A large part of the housing colony is ready.

A major setback suffered by the project has been a 2-year delay in getting possession of some 2,000 acres of low-lying land near Gokarna, 30 miles away, to be used for the purpose of salt cultivation. The factory will need about two tonnes of common salt per tonne of caustic soda produced. It seems the Government of Karnataka could not hand over the land to the company because of agitation by local politicians. Most of the land is nearly always inundated by sea-water and is not suitable for cultivation. The company hopes to meet about 60 per cent of Its requirement of salt from this and after developing it for a period of 7 years. The land was promised to the company the State Government in return for establishing the factory In this very backward district.

Project authorities also fear that the water pipeline between the Gangavali river and Karwar town, which Is to feed the plant's water requirement of 6 million gallons per day may be delayed, thus delaying the project. The pipeline is being set up by the Public Health Engineering Department of the State Government through a private contractor. The mercury cell process will be used here to produce caustic soda. This process has poisonous mercury in its effluent. According to a company spokesman, the technical collaborators, M/s. Krebs of France, are formulating, some effluent treatment schemes, such as converting the mercury into a harmless compound or injecting the effluent deep into the earth and allowing the earth to filter out the harmful, pollutants from the effluent.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

NUGGETS OF HISTORY

Part of Freedom Movement

Gandhian Gudleppa Hallikeri was part of several phases of the Indian freedom movement including Dandi March, Non-Cooperation Movement and so on. He was arrested many times and spent several years behind bars during this phase. Also known as 'Iron Man of Karnataka', he went on to become member of the Mysore State Legislative Council.

Hosaritti and Indian freedom struggle

Hosaritti village was a source of inspiration for freedom fighters from early days of the freedom struggle. In 1942, during the Quit India Movement, it was in Hosaritti in Haveri district that freedom fighters such as Mailar Mahadeva, Veerayya Hiremath and Tirukappa Madivalar laid down their lives, protesting against the British colonialism.

Establishment of the Gandhi Ashram

Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, Gudleppa Halliker established Gandhi Ashrama in Hosaritti. Gandhi Gurukul at Hosaritti is the lone residential school in Karnataka which offers education based on Gandhian ideals and values. Before conceptualising it, its founder Gudleppa had visited several places and institutions inspired by Gandhian ideals.

Different style of education

Spread over 32 acre, along with formal education, Gandhi Gurukul teaches farming, dairy farming and trains students to become self reliant in multiple ways. The system here is markedly different from the regular schooling system. Making hands-on work part of the education process is their effort to inculcate Gandhian values in children.

Inaugrated by S.R. Bommai

Gandhi Grameen Gurukul was inaugurated by the then Finance Minister S.R. Bommai on Gandhi Jayanti day in 1984. The institution is hoping for help from the government and philanthropists to sustain itself with its vision intact. Though alumni of the school have been generous in help, the institution needs a lot more help on a regular basis.

A gurukul for rural children steeped in Gandhian values

Gandhi Grameen Gurukul Residential School at Hosaritti in Haveri district combines academic curriculum with life values taught by Mahatma Gandhi

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

It is 5 a.m. on Wednesday. The wake up bell for the inmates of Gandhi Grameen Gurukul Residential School at Hosaritti (Haveri district in Karnataka) has already been rung. Like other inmates of the Gurukul, Class VIII students Ravi Lamani, Vijay Karennavar and Yallappa Talawar have completed their daily chores and are ready for the All Religion Prayer at 5.30 a.m.

They have special duties assigned to them for the day. After prayer, yoga and bath, they have to reach the kitchen as early as possible as 'kitchen duty' has been assigned to their 'Vivekananda House'. Likewise the members of various houses named after freedom fighters and eminent personalities have been assigned various duties including serving food, cleaning up premises and other works.

At 8.30 a.m., the breakfast bell rings and within a few minutes children clad in khadi uniforms wearing Gandhi caps assemble at the 'Prasad Nilaya' (Dining Hall) carrying their plates and glasses. The designated kitchen volunteers for the day quickly serve them breakfast and nutrition drinks. Once everyone is served, they recite shlokas in chorus, and bow down to Mother Earth before beginning to eat.

After breakfast, they have time till 9.45 a.m., and then they assemble again for school prayer. But Class X students like Lingaraja Mahabalashettar, Naveengouda Patil, Karthik Mathapati, Balesh Dalawai have to attend special classes.

At the prayer time, the khadi clad students sing patriotic songs, state and national anthem. Chosen students take a minute each to speak about a topic in each subject and languages. Headlines of Kannada and English dailies are also read out. Students then hurry to their classes as they are reminded that only 95 days are remaining for the SSLC examination.

Students of Gandhi Grameen Gurukul Residential School at the daily school assembly.

The Gandhi Grameen Gurukul Residential School at Hosaritti.

The bust of freedom fighter Gudleppa Hallikeri at the entrance of the school.

to get the government approval.

Son fulfills father's dream

It was after his demise that it finally took shape through the efforts of his son and doctor Dr. Deenabandhu Hallikeri and like minded persons like Gopanna Kulkarni and Viranna Chakki of Hosaritti, Basavanneppa Gourimani of Channur and Chittaranjan Kalkoti of Koradur on Gandhi's birth anniversary in the year 1984 with the state government sanctioning required grant-in-aid.

"Gudleppa Hallikeri's dream of Gandhi Gurukul finally materialised through the efforts of his family members and several like minded persons and philanthropists," says M.P. Goudannanavar, the headmaster of the Gandhi Grameen Gurukul.

Viranna Chakki, who is one among the two surviving founding trustees, is still committed to the cause and frequently travels from Hubballi to Hosaratti to be part of the Gurkul 's activities. Post the demise of Dr. Deenabandhu, Gudleppa's another son Rajendra Prasad Hallikeri is officiating as Chairman, while Gudleppa's grandson Dr. Gudlesh, localites Dr. Girish Ankalkoti, Shambanna Arali are the trustees.

"Our objective was clear, we wanted the best Gandhian valued based education imparted to the rural students who are deprived of the opportunities. We offered it free of cost initially with the grants from government and generous donations from philanthropists. We cater to students from various districts across the North Karnataka region", said Viranna Chakki.

Dwindling resources

However over a period of time, Sri Gudleppa Hallikeri Smaraka Pratishtana, which runs the Gurukul is finding it difficult to run the rural residential school due to dwindling resources. The Gurukul which had 29 teaching and non teaching staff appointed on permanent basis is now left with hardly five permanent staff. The grant for food and cloth per student has remained the same despite requests for hike.

The Gurukul has a sanctioned strength of 240 students with a maximum intake of 40 students for each class from class V to X.

"We are managing somehow by mobilising funds through our contacts. Milk produced through dairy farming and vegetables grown in the Gurukul are of great help. In the recent years we were forced to seek help from parents as we have to pay for the staff and 24 sanctioned posts remain still vacant," Dr. Gudlesh said.

Help from alumni

According to Dr. Gudlesh, many among the 1,300 alumni of the Gurukul have extended a helping hand. In fact some among the staff are alumni of the Gurukul like warden Subhash Patil have continued to work in the Gurukul on temporary basis.

"We know what the situation is and what we have learnt from the institution. We are doing our bit and there are many among the alumni who came back with plans to help our alma mater," he said.

Thanks to their generous contribution and other philanthropists, the Gurukul has now seen improvement in infrastructure in the last few years including having smart classrooms. But still it needs more support.

In the last few years, the Trustees have made umpteen pleas to the government authorities seeking approval for filling up posts as it was granted approval as a special school and increase in grants per student on par with the grant given to other residential schools, which actually were modelled on the Gandhi Gurukul. A recent meeting with Minister for School Education Madhu Bangarappa has raised their hopes for an early solution to the long pending issue.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, actor Shivarajkumar and his wife, Geeta Shivarajkumar, at the launch of KMF products in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shivarajkumar is KMF brand ambassador

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Milk Federation on Thursday released buffalo milk packets and low-fat curds to cater to the taste of Bengalureans. It also named actor Shivarajkumar its brand ambassador.

Buffalo milk packet, which was released by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru, will be available at ₹35 for 500 ml. The KMF will source buffalo milk from Belagavi and Vijayapura milk unions and process it in Bengaluru.

On the occasion, KMF also released "Lite Curd" that would be available in packets of 180 gm (₹10) and 500 gm (₹25). KMF, which has been marketing about 40 varieties of sweet products, has come out with new packaging for such products including Mysore pak and millet laddu.

It may be noted that earlier, Mr. Shivarajkumar's younger brother and actor, the late Puneet Rajkumar, was the brand ambassador of KMF. Mr. Siddaramaiah released the teaser of a TV commercial featuring Mr. Shivarajkumar on the occasion and also felicitated him.

Builder, family held in Kerala over cheating actor Gautami

The Hindu Bureau
THRISSUR

A builder and his family who allegedly swindled actor Gautami Tadimalla of her property worth ₹25 crore were arrested from a hideout at Choondal in Kerala's Thrissur district on Thursday.

C. Alagappan, his wife, Nachiyammal, and two others were arrested by the Chennai Crime Branch.

According to Ms. Gautami, Mr. Alagappan swindled her of her property using power of attorney. It is alleged that the property was shifted to the name of his family members.

Kerala capital sees chaos as police, students' outfit clash

KSU activists march to police headquarters demanding action against Chief Minister's personal security officers; police accuse activists of throwing chilli powder into eyes of law enforcers

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Chaos descended on Kerala's capital for the second consecutive day on Thursday with the Kerala Students Union activists clashing with the police on the street. The melee resulted in injuries on both sides.

The violence unfolded when KSU workers marched to the State police headquarters demanding that action be taken against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's personal security officers for allegedly assaulting the student unions' activists in Alappuzha last week.

The students attempted to pull down the barricades, blocking the road to the police headquarters. The police tried to disburse the protesters with water cannon but failed.

Acting tough: Police use water cannon to disperse KSU activists in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. S. MAHINSHA

The police baton charged the students after some officers accused the activists of throwing chilli powder into the eyes of law enforcers.

Later, Congress leader Mathew Kuzhalnadan, MLA, who inaugurated the KSU protest march, accused the police of deliberately targeting women activists with water cannons. The police shifted several injured KSU workers to hospital.

On Wednesday, the police and the Youth Congress workers skirmished on the road in front of the Secretariat, throwing life in the Kerala capital out of gear.

At a press conference in Attingal on Thursday, Mr. Vijayan had blamed Mr. Satheesan for Wednesday's violence.

In a related development, the Cantonment police booked Mr. Satheesan as the first accused. The police charges against the Leader of the Opposition included destruction of public property, unlawful assembly and rioting.

Pinarayi asks Modi to ensure Governor discharges Constitutional obligations

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The protracted government-Raj Bhavan stand-off over the contentious university Senate nominations and the "inordinate gubernatorial delay" in signing Bills passed by the legislature into law came to a head on Thursday with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan requesting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention to ensure Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan discharged his constitutional duties and conducted himself within the bounds of his high office.

The government's uncustomary letter to Mr. Modi capped a season of bitter disagreement between Mr. Khan and Mr. Vijayan that often devolved into public war of words and tit-for-tat accusations bordering on the personal.

An official said the letter, which remained confidential between the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister, purportedly reflected Mr. Vijayan's public position on the government-Raj Bhavan dispute.

Mr. Vijayan had repeatedly criticised Mr. Khan for the latter's alleged public posturing, for-a-dare approach to protesting students, and disparaging remarks about Kerala.

The already fraught relationship between had hit an antagonistic low recently, with Raj Bhavan stating in an unusual communique that it sensed the "beginning of the collapse of the constitutional machinery in the State". It had issued the statement in the context of the SFI's escalating black flag protests against the Chancellor.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Dense to very dense fog very likely in isolated places over Punjab and dense fog in isolated places over Haryana, north Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Assam & Meghalaya and Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.0	13.0	Kozhikode	—	35.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	27.0	17.0	Kurnool	—	31.0	21.0
Aizawl	—	20.0	9.0	Lucknow	—	22.0	10.0
Allahabad	—	24.0	10.0	Madurai	—	31.0	24.0
Bengaluru	—	28.0	16.0	Mangaluru	—	34.0	23.0
Bhopal	—	24.0	10.0	Mumbai	—	33.0	23.0
Bhubaneswar	—	25.0	13.0	Mysuru	—	30.0	19.0
Chandigarh	—	23.0	6.0	New Delhi	—	23.0	7.0
Chennai	—	31.0	25.0	Patna	—	25.0	11.0
Coimbatore	—	30.0	22.0	Port Blair	8.2	31.0	26.0
Dehradun	—	24.0	5.0	Puducherry	—	31.0	25.0
Gangtok	—	15.0	8.0	Pune	—	31.0	18.0
Goa	—	34.0	25.0	Raipur	—	25.0	9.0
Guwahati	—	27.0	11.0	Ranchi	—	22.0	10.0
Hubballi	—	32.0	18.0	Shillong	—	16.0	6.0
Hyderabad	—	28.0	14.0	Shimla	—	18.0	6.0
Imphal	—	23.0	7.0	Srinagar	—	10.0	-3.0
Jaipur	—	25.0	10.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.0	25.0
Kochi	—	32.0	25.0	Tiruchi	—	31.0	24.0
Kohima	—	16.0	6.0	Vijayawada	—	28.0	19.0
Kolkata	—	24.0	15.0	Visakhapatnam	—	28.0	21.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	1	2	28	192	144	
Bengaluru	4	31	46	81	147	
Chennai	11	26	—	192	140	
Delhi	18	115	61	426	367	
Hyderabad	8	24	48	207	—	
Kolkata	20	59	19	185	135	
Lucknow	9	42	38	332	197	
Mumbai	24	99	45	242	205	
Pune	5	22	17	124	133	
Visakhapatnam	17	67	48	255	246	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 394 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Form A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF
SKANDYSYS PRIVATE LIMITED

1.	NAME OF CORPORATE PERSON	SKANDYSYS PRIVATE LIMITED
2.	DATE OF INCORPORATION OF CORPORATE PERSON	26/04/2017
3.	AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH CORPORATE PERSON IS INCORPORATED / REGISTERED	ROC-BANGALORE, MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
4.	CORPORATE IDENTITY NUMBER / LIMITED LIABILITY IDENTITY NUMBER OF CORPORATE PERSON	U74999KA2017PTC102598
5.	ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE (IF ANY) OF CORPORATE PERSON	Innovent Spaces, Floor-4 Ga-O-08, Survey No.293/154/172, Outer Ring Road, Kadubeesanahalli, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560103, Karnataka, India
6.	LIQUIDATION COMMENCEMENT DATE OF CORPORATE PERSON	20th December 2023
7.	NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE LIQUIDATOR	Mr. Thirupal gorige No. 87, 2nd floor, 21st cross, 7th main, N.S. Palya, BTM 2nd stage, bangalore-560076, Karnataka, India. Cell +91 94483 84064, LL +91 80 7963 4233. Email: gthirupal@gmail.com. IP Registration no. IBBI/IPA-002/ IP-N00016/ 2016-17/10030 AFA valid upto 21/05/2024
8.	LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS	19th January 2024

Notice is hereby given that **SKANDYSYS PRIVATE LIMITED** has commenced voluntary liquidation on **20th December 2023.**
The stakeholders of **SKANDYSYS PRIVATE LIMITED** are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before **19th January 2024** to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.
The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.
Date: 21.12.2023 **Thirupal Gorige**
Place: Bangalore **Liquidator**

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(YERAMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF KPCL & BHEL)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

No.EE(MSP)/YTPS/23-24/136 Dated: 19.12.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal only)

RPCL invites bids from reputed agencies for the procurement of following materials for YTPS through e-Procurement **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in (1)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0660/Call-2,19.12.2023 **Expansion Metallic Bellows for YTPS. (2)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0514/ Call-3, 19.12.2023.Plate valves, Bellows and D-Pump spares **(3)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0718,14.12.2023. **Apron feeder drive sprockets for CHP. (4)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0711, 13.12.2023. **28W T5 Tubes and Ballast for YTPS (5)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0581/Call-3, 11.12.2023. **Fabrication materials for YTPS. (6)** KPCL/ 2023-24/ IND0498/Call-3, 08.12.2023. **General valves for YPTS. (7)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0703, 08.12.2023. **Non spring damper actuator. (8)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0071/Call-2, 16.12.2023. **Hiring of 1No. MPV/Toyota Innova A/C vechicle.** Last date & time for Bid submission: **(**Sl.No.5,6 & 7: **26.12.2023,16.00 hrs.) (**Sl.No.8: **27.12.2023, 16.00 hrs.) (**Sl.No.3 & 4**: 28.12.2023, 16.00 hrs.) (**Sl. No.1**: 03.01.2024, 16.00 hrs.) (**Sl.No.2**: 04.01.2024, 16.00 hrs.)**The brief bid notification containing detailed specification, pre-qualifying criteria for the bidders. Calendar of bid activites & other details can be accessed from GoK e-Procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (MSP), RPCL, YTPS, Yermarus-584 134 Raichur. Mobile: 9480682892, e-Mail: eemsprpcl@gmail.com www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Form A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF
SPICAWORKS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

1.	NAME OF CORPORATE PERSON	SPICAWORKS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
2.	DATE OF INCORPORATION OF CORPORATE PERSON	05/04/2018
3.	AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH CORPORATE PERSON IS INCORPORATED / REGISTERED	ROC-BANGALORE, MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
4.	CORPORATE IDENTITY NUMBER / LIMITED LIABILITY IDENTITY NUMBER OF CORPORATE PERSON	U72900KA2018PTC111980
5.	ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE (IF ANY) OF CORPORATE PERSON	Innovent Spaces, Floor-4 Ga-O-06, Survey No.293/154/172, Outer Ring Road, Kadubeesanahalli, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560103, Karnataka, India
6.	LIQUIDATION COMMENCEMENT DATE OF CORPORATE PERSON	20th December 2023
7.	NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE LIQUIDATOR	Mr. Thirupal gorige No. 87, 2nd floor, 21st cross, 7th main, N.S. Palya, BTM 2nd stage, Bangalore-560076, Karnataka, India Cell +91 94483 84064, LL +91 80 7963 4233, Email: gthirupal@gmail.com, IP Registration No. IBBI/IPA-002/ IP-N00016/2016-17/10030 AFA valid upto 21/05/2024
8.	LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS	19th January 2024

Notice is hereby given that **SPICAWORKS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED** has commenced voluntary liquidation on **20th December 2023**.
The stakeholders of **SPICAWORKS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED** are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before **19th January 2024** to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.
The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.
Date: 21.12.2023 **Thirupal Gorige**
Place: Bangalore **Liquidator**

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout
Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 029
Phone : 080-41106507 - 18.
e-mail: cekwbbng@gmail.com website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

IFT no: 963 dated: 20-12-2023

Tender for the work of **"Providing water supply scheme to Pavagada town under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode"**, amounting to **₹.26.41 Crores** has been invited vide Karnataka Public Procurement Portal indent No: KUWSDB/ 2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT92

Further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (B),
DIPR/CP/2667/AKAR/2023-24 **KUWS & D BOARD, BENGALURU**

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited
(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office : Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004, Telephone :-0651-2400799 & Fax : 0651-2400799
https://www.jbvnl.co.in Email- cecr2018@gmail.com

e-procurement Notice
NIT No. - 295/PR/JBVNL/2023-24

E-tender for selection of Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Service Provider for Smart Prepaid Metering in Electric Supply Area Ranchi, Medininagar & Hazaribagh ***(Package 2)*** for an estimated cost Rs. 636.07 Crores in JBVNL on DBFOOT basis (Smart Metering of Consumers, Distribution Transformer Metering, Feeder Metering and Energy Accounting) under Smart Metering works of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) sanction by Ministry of Power, GoI and approved by GoJ.

SN	Details of Work	
1	Supply, Installation, Commissioning,testing and integration of Smart Prepaid Consumer Meter, DT & Feeder Meter and development of Advance metering infrastructure Works within Electric Supply Area Ranchi, Medininagar & Hazaribagh (Package 2)	
2	Estimated Cost-Rs 636.07 Crores(all inclusive)	
3	Calendar of Events :	
i.	Date of Publication of NIT on website	22.12.2023 till 14:00 Hrs
ii.	Last date for sending pre-bid queries/suggestions through Email-cecr2018@gmail.com and hard copy at Office of General Manager (Coml.),JBVNL	27.12.2023 till 17:00 Hrs
iii	Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time;Venue-Conference Hall,JBVNL HQ,Engineering Building,Dhurwa Ranchi	28.12.2023 at 12:00 Hrs
iv	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids(online)	11.01.2024 at 15:00 Hrs
v	Last Date / Time for receipt of other documents (in hard copy in the office of GM(Coml.)	11.01.2024 at 15:00 Hrs
vi.	Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid	12.01.2024 at 15:30 Hrs

The tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and should upload all relevant documents as mentioned in the tender document only through online e-tender portal/website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Save Energy, Save Nation for Better tomorrow

Sd/-
General Manager (Coml.)
PR 314041 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd) 23-24 (D)

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834004,
Email:- gmrevenue2022@gmail.com,

INVITING E-TENDER BID
For appointment of "Service Agency for Engagement of Urja Mitras for Real Time Spot Billing using Android based Mobile Device along with Portable Printer for Billing and Revenue Collection" vide following NITs:

NIT No.	Electric Supply Area
288/PR/JBVNL/2023-24	Dumka
289/PR/JBVNL/2023-24	Dhanbad & Giridih
290/PR/JBVNL/2023-24	Jamshedpur
291/PR/JBVNL/2023-24	Ranchi

Timelines for participating in the all the above e-tender is detailed below :

Sl. No.	Event	Timelines
i	Date of Publication of Notice in Newspaper	22.12.2023
ii	Start date & time for downloading the tender documents	From 22/12/2023 at 17:00 Hrs.
iii	Last date & time for submission of clarification, if any on the document for pre-bid meeting / Pre-bid Queries (Through E-mail Only)	Upto 25/12/2023 at 18:00 Hrs.
iv	Pre-bid meeting	On 28/12/2023 at 12:30 Hrs.
v	Last date & time of receipt of bid documents (Online)	Upto 15/01/2024 at 18:00 Hrs.
vi	Due date for opening of Technical Bid (Part-I)	17/01/2024 at 15:00 Hrs.

Bid uploading / opening will be through e-tendering norms only. The complete Tender documents can be downloaded through website www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in Bidder may contact help desk of e-Procurement system at the following web address: www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.
Note:-
Pre-bid meeting shall be conducted at Conference Hall, JBVNL HQ, Ranchi at aforementioned date and time
Tendering Authority:
General Manager (Revenue)9431708980, 9471511758

Call Center 24 x 7
18003456570 /18001238745
Centralised Complain NO. 1912

Sd/-
(M.M.Singh)
General Manager (Revenue)
PR314049 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd)23-24*D

Jharkhand BijliVitran Nigam Limited
(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office : Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004,
Telephone :-0651-2400799 & Fax : 0651-2400799
https://www.jbvnl.co.inEmail- cecr2018@gmail.com

e-procurement Notice
NIT No. -292/PR/JBVNL/2023-24

E-tender for selection of Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Service Provider for Smart Prepaid Metering in Electric Supply Area ***Dhanbad & Giridih (Package 1)*** for an estimated cost Rs. 444.53 Crores in JBVNL on DBFOOT basis (Smart Metering of Consumers, Distribution Transformer Metering, Feeder Metering and Energy Accounting) under Smart Metering works of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) sanction by Ministry of Power, GoI and approved by GoJ.

SN	Details of Work	
1	Supply, Installation, Commissioning,testing and integration of Smart Prepaid Consumer Meter, DT & Feeder Meter and development of Advance metering infrastructureWorks within Electric Supply Area Dhanbad&Giridih (Package 1)	
2	Estimated Cost-Rs 444.53 Crores(all inclusive)	
3	Calendar of Events :	
i.	Date of Publication of NIT on website	22.12.2023 till 14:00 Hrs
ii.	Last date for sending pre-bid queries/suggestionsthrough Email-cecr2018@gmail.com and hard copy at Office of General Manager (Coml.),JBVNL	27.12.2023 till 17:00 Hrs
iii	Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time;Venue - ConferenceHall,JBVNLHQ,EngineeringBuilding,Dhurwa Ranchi	28.12.2023 at 12:00 Hrs
iv	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids(online)	11.01.2024 at 15:00 Hrs
v	Last Date / Time for receipt of other documents (in hard copy in the office of GM(Coml.)	11.01.2024 at 15:00 Hrs
vi.	Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid	12.01.2024 at 15:30 Hrs

The tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and should upload all relevant documents as mentioned in the tender document only through online e-tender portal/website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Save Energy, Save Nation for Better Tomorrow

Sd/-
General Manager (Coml.)
PR 314029 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(23-24).D

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
BELAGAVI

TENDER INVITED
(E- PROCUREMENT)

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi hereby invited tender from Registered Contractors for the item rates through kppp Portal. There are total 13 work have been called, Standard of tender documents KW-1, 2 & 3 for price of Highest and Lowest Estimated Cost **Rs. 65.00 Lakhs** and **Rs. 6.00 Lakh** respectively and also Highest and Lowest EMD has As Per Eprocurement for each work. The last date for submission of any quarries is 27-12-2023 17:28 PM, the last date for submission of tender bid is on 28-12-2023: 17:28 PM. Opening of technical bid is on 30-12-2023: 11-00 AM. and Expected Financial bid will be opened on 01-01-2024 11:30 PM. For any other information/ clarifications please contact the below signed office, and also search internet for kppp-Portal website **http://kppp-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPO/BGM/803/2023-24 P. R. E. Division, Belagavi

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
O/o The Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Mysuru zonal office, Jalabhavan, #P-4, 10th main, 3rd cross, 3rd floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-09
Ph No: 0821-2545894, Email: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
IFT no: 1140 dated: 18-12-2023

The tender for the work of "Improvements to existing Water Supply System of Madikeri City from Kootuholae and Kundamesthri River as sources under AMRUT-2.0 (Tranche 1 & 2) Including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 years (Including 1 Year DLP) Through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation)" amounting to Rs.38.86 Crores has been invited vide Karnataka Public Procurement Portal indent No: KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT88. Further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S. & D Board, Mysuru.
DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/801/2023-24

Revision *sans* vision

New laws have positive features, but bring no path-breaking change

Law-making in the absence of a significant number of Opposition members does not reflect well on the legislature. The three Bills that replace the body of criminal laws in India were passed by Parliament in its ongoing session in the absence of more than 140 members. Even though the revised versions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS, which will replace the IPC), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (which will replace the CrPC) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill (instead of the Evidence Act) were introduced after scrutiny by a Parliamentary Standing Committee, they still required legislative deliberations in the full chambers, given their implications for the entire country. Many concerns that the Bills gave rise to could not be raised in Parliament as a result. A conspicuous aspect of the new codes is that barring reordering of the sections, much of the language and contents of the original laws have been retained. However, Union Home Minister Amit Shah's claim that the colonial imprint of the IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act has been replaced by a purely Indian legal framework may not be correct, as the new codes do not envisage any path-breaking change in the way the country is policed, crimes are investigated and protracted trials are conducted.

The improvements in the BNS include the removal of the outdated sedition section, as exciting disaffection against the government or bringing it into hatred and contempt is no more an offence, and the introduction of mob lynching (including hate crimes such as causing death or grievous hurt on the ground of a person's race, caste, community, sex, language or place of birth) as a separate offence. Another positive feature is the government ignoring the panel's recommendation to bring back adultery, struck down by the Supreme Court, as a gender-neutral offence. However, it is questionable whether 'terrorism' should have been included in the general penal law when it is punishable under special legislation. Grave charges such as terrorism should not be lightly invoked. On the procedural side, some welcome features are the provision for FIRs to be registered by a police officer irrespective of where an offence took place and the boost sought to be given to use of forensics in investigation and videography of searches and seizures. A significant failure lies in not clarifying whether the new criminal procedure allows police custody beyond the 15-day limit, or it is just a provision that allows the 15-day period to spread across any days within the first 40 or 60 days of a person's arrest. Revisions in law cannot be made without a vision for a legal framework that addresses all the inadequacies of the criminal justice system.

Staying alert

India must sustain focus on genome sequencing for novel variants

The rapidly increasing spread of the JN.1 variant across the globe has led to the prevalence of this variant, a descendent of the BA.2.86 Omicron lineage, reaching over 27%, marking an eight-fold increase in just a month. First identified in Luxembourg in late August this year, the JN.1 variant has also become the dominant variant in a few countries. The variant is very likely to become the dominant strain globally. Compared with the parent lineage BA.2.86, the JN.1 variant carries an additional mutation (L455S) in the spike protein, which enhances its immune evasion significantly. Like other Omicron sublineages, the JN.1 variant too has high transmissibility. The winter season in the northern hemisphere will thus make it easier for the virus to spread. Despite increased immune escape capability and transmissibility, no major outbreak has been reported so far. Prompted by the presence of the JN.1 variant in most countries and its rapidly increasing spread, the World Health Organization classified JN.1 as a separate variant of interest a couple of days ago; JN.1 was previously tracked as part of BA.2.86 but now accounts for "vast majority" of the BA.2.86 lineage. Based on available limited evidence, the global health body has noted that JN.1 is not associated with increased disease severity compared with other circulating variants. Evidence from countries that have reported a surge in cases and hospitalisations driven by the JN.1 variant does not suggest higher fatality.

Though the first COVID-19 case caused by the JN.1 variant was detected in Kerala during routine surveillance, Goa has reported the greatest number of cases so far – 19. India has so far reported 21 JN.1 cases in all. All the 21 cases have been clinically mild, requiring home isolation. In the last fortnight, India has registered a sharp increase in the number of COVID-19 cases. While universal masking should surely not be made mandatory at this point in time, it is highly desirable that high-risk individuals mask up especially in poorly ventilated closed spaces as COVID-19 deaths in people with comorbidities are still being reported in India. In a welcome move, all patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) are being tested for COVID-19, and positive cases are sequenced as part of the revised surveillance guidelines. Likewise, there should be sustained focus on genome sequencing for novel variants. Finally, India should learn from past mistakes and refrain from shaming States that report more cases and/or novel variants. States that have better surveillance and display greater integrity in testing and reporting are bound to register more cases. Public health should neither be communalised nor politicised.

Questionable searches under the Money Laundering Act

Dushyant Dave

is a Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court of India

The enforcement of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (passed in the background of India's commitment to the international community to fight the drug menace and terrorism) has caused much consternation especially after its unusual interpretation by the Supreme Court of India in *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary and Ors vs Union of India and Ors.* (2022). The Supreme Court of India limited its application to "on the wrongful and illegal gain of property as a result of criminal activity relating to a scheduled offence". It also held that "the property must qualify the definition of "proceeds of crime" under Section 2(1)(u) of the 2002 Act". It went on to hold that "the authority of the Authorised Officer... to prosecute any person for offence of money-laundering gets triggered only if there exists proceeds of crime within the meaning of Section 2(1)(u) of the 2002 Act and further it is involved in any process or activity".

The Court emphatically held that "Not even in a case of existence of undisclosed income and irrespective of its volume, the definition of 'proceeds of crime' under Section 2(1)(u) will get attracted, unless the property has been derived or obtained as a result of criminal activity relating to a scheduled offence".

The law thus declared by the Court, which binds one and all under Article 141, is clear – "If the offence so reported is a scheduled offence, only in that eventuality, the property recovered by the Authorised Officer would partake the colour of proceeds of crime under Section 2(1)(u) of the 2002 Act, enabling him to take further action under the Act...". In clarity, the Court declared, "Absent existence of proceeds of crime, as aforesaid, the authorities under the 2002 Act cannot step in or initiate any prosecution".

The media has reported many cases of Enforcement Directorate (ED) searches, seizures and arrests – which are outside the ED's powers, as held by the Court. Naturally, the conduct of the ED in this regard has resulted in severe criticism from the Supreme Court, as seen in *Pankaj Bansal vs Union of India*, recently.

The Court, while setting aside the arrest orders along with orders of remand passed by the Sessions Judge Panchkula, and affirmed by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, made damning observations: "This chronology of events reflects rather poorly, if not negatively, on the ED's style of functioning. The ED, mantled with far-reaching powers under the stringent Act of 2002, must be seen to be acting with utmost probity, dispassion and fairness. In the case on hand, the ED failed to exercise its powers. The Court added, "Surprisingly, no consistent and uniform practice seems to be followed... as written copies of the grounds of arrest are furnished to arrested persons in certain parts of the country but in other areas,... the grounds of arrest are either read out to them or allowed to be read by them." In November 2023, Justices Abhay S. Oka and Pankaj Mithal, in *Pavana Dibbur vs The Directorate of Enforcement, 2023 INSC 1029*, addressed key aspects of the PMLA: "On a plain reading of Section 3, unless proceeds of crime exist, there cannot be any money laundering offence," and "To constitute any property as proceeds of crime, it must be derived or obtained directly or indirectly by any person as a result of criminal activity relating to a scheduled offence" Because, the existence of "proceeds of crime" is "*sine qua non*" for the offence under Section 3 of the PMLA.

> The abuse of authority by the central investigating agencies and the abuse of the process of court raise disturbing questions

Damaging to federalism

Yet, what is happening in some States that are governed by the Opposition is damaging to federalism. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 is not covered by the Schedule of the PMLA Act and offences in relation thereto are not "Scheduled Offences". Yet, the ED in these States is conducting inquiries with respect to the alleged illegal mining of sand, a minor mineral under the control of States and not the Union. The Mines Act has extensive provision to curb evasion and enables penalty and prosecution for any illegal extraction of minerals . But, that power is with the State government.

In Jharkhand, the ED purportedly registered an enforcement case investigation report (No. 07/2023) on January 30, 2023 against an MLA of the ruling party and his associates based on certain first information reports (FIR) filed by some persons. While these complaints were under investigation, a writ petition was filed in the High Court by one Bijay Hansda (who was apparently in jail, and who later, on oath, told the High Court that he had not authorised anyone to file that petition) to refer these police cases to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Curiously, the ED was also made a party in this writ petition. The petition stated that the ED had started investigation "pertaining to illegal mining and on the laundering of the tainted monies generated from it" and that the petitioner was issued a summons, where he appeared and offered assistance on the *modus operandi* of the alleged offenders, based on which the ED had apparently prepared a prosecution report. The ED affidavit said, "The suspects of the ECIR 07/2023 ... are habitual offenders who are a party in the activities connected with the proceeds of crime". The ED claimed that "... illegal mining is being done in a rampant manner and the proceeds ... dealt in cash." The ED, at that stage, was neither investigating a scheduled offence nor did it have any property of crime.

Clearly, the process of the court was abused. The alleged petitioner, once out of jail, sought withdrawal of the petition. The High Court refused permission on August 8, 2023, and the next day delivered the judgment transferring the police cases to the CBI. It immediately registered the preliminary inquiry, and subsequently FIR, while a special leave petition (SLP) was filed by the alleged offenders before the Supreme Court stating that they had not been heard by the High Court before passing the judgment, besides contending that neither the CBI nor the ED had any jurisdiction in the matter.

Even more shocking is the order of the Bench on September 18, 2023: "Permission to file Special Leave Petition is granted. Issue Notice."

In subsequent judicial developments, between September and November 2023, there were violations of procedure, such as the notice issuing Bench being changed contrary to the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 and the *Handbook on Practice and Procedure and Office Procedure*. Further, the later Bench was not persuaded by the arguments put forth by the senior advocate for the alleged offender to grant interim relief in a very deserving case where, besides questions of jurisdiction, there were pointers to the violation of natural justice.

A selective targeting

So now, the CBI and the ED have absolute freedom to do what is not authorised under the judgments of the Supreme Court. Interestingly, the ED in its affidavit before the High Court said that the "the Accused Pankaj Mishra is the MLA representative of Jharkhand Chief Minister and is a very influential person." So, the design is clear. Clearly, the process of the law is being abused in an innovative and lethal manner to target the political party ruling Jharkhand. Efforts are on by the ED to implicate other governments in some States including Tamil Nadu. The ED is singularly inactive in States run by the Bharatiya Janata Party, where the incidents of illegal mining are far more serious. In Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, the cases of illegal mining are 6,743, 324, 23,787, 8,713, and 9,361, respectively.

This raises extremely disturbing questions not only about the abuse of authority by central investigating agencies but also the abuse of the process of court being permitted all along.

If mines and minerals are not part of "scheduled offences" and in a case where "proceeds of crime" are non-existent, it is shocking that courts should allow such investigations to be carried out by the CBI and the ED. It is even more sad that the courts do not ask these agencies about such actions in other States but are ever so willing to condemn the administration in Opposition-governed States.

Federalism is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution of India, but its foundation is being slowly chipped away through such processes.

Everybody, including constitutional institutions, appears to have forgotten what the Constitution stands for. Let us hope and pray that these machinations are curbed forthwith to save the further down slide of our cherished democracy.

Subaltern Hindutva and the crucial social justice test

Harish S. Wankhede

is Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

In the recent Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, statistical analysis by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies shows that a significant section among the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) backed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), thus making the party a formidable force in democratic battles. It is an important development as just a decade ago, the BJP was often cornered by the Opposition as being the party of the social elites. With the arrival of Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister of India, there has been an elevation of the party as one for the socially marginalised Hindu masses – a phenomenon now understood under the 'Subaltern Hindutva' rubric.

In north India's Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Chhattisgarh, the BJP is now a dominant political force. These are also the States where the population of OBCs, SCs and the STs is above the national average. In the last two decades, the BJP has successfully mobilised these groups through innovative political strategies and by curating influential cultural events. However, the actual benefits of economic developments and political change have been overtly controlled by the conventional social elites, a development that often relegates the Dalit-Bahujan masses as passive peripheral spectators in the rapid elevation of the right-wing. With the general election to be held next year, the party should address the issues of social discrimination and economic injustice more sensitively.

Outlining the party's strategy

There are three fronts to the BJP's mobilisation strategies towards the Dalit-Bahujan masses. First, marginalised social groups will benefit from general welfare measures (freebies, loan waivers, women-centric policy benefits) and the government will provide basic amenities to the poor (free food grains) without identifying them on the basis of caste. Second, the BJP has alleged that dominant OBC castes (Yadavs in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar) have exploited social justice policies, and, therefore, a special reservation quota should be mooted for the Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs). Third, the BJP engages the lower strata through curating emotive narratives about their history, icons and caste pride, using various religious events and cultural fronts influenced by the BJP. On the flip side, the actual issues of substantive land distributions for the landless communities, representation of the Dalit-Bahujan groups in the high echelons of power and their participation in the neo-liberal economic growth as major shareholders do not form the mainstream discussions within the BJP's 'Subaltern Hindutva' strategies.

> The BJP's 'subaltern Hindutva' plan, while strategic in ensuring the party its key electoral victories, has no mandate to meet the aspirations of the worst-off social groups

The Bihar caste report

Bihar's Caste Survey report, that was released recently, shows that the worst-off social groups, especially EBCs, still face precarious economic conditions, social insecurities and are distanced from the basic human entitlements. It is apparent that EBCs and Dalits in other States face similar conditions. However, the BJP is yet to engage with these issues and has not offered much resolutions to contest the prevalent issues of poverty, social backwardness and landlessness. The 'Subaltern Hindutva', while appearing to be mainly strategic in ensuring the BJP's electoral victories, offers no mandate to satisfy the aspirations of the worst-off social groups.

With Vishnu Deo Sai and Mohan Yadav as the Chief Ministers of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, respectively, the BJP has demonstrated its willingness to promote new leadership from the subaltern groups, initiating a process of democratisation of the top political positions. Such initiatives should also be supplemented by effective policies for the empowerment and participation of the marginalised social groups in the economic development and social change.

The BJP must pass the social justice test as sections among the historically disadvantaged have moved to the BJP with deep expectations for their economic welfare and elevated political participation. In Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, while the combined population of Dalits and Adivasis is close to 40%, their share in political power (cabinet ministership and other important portfolios) is negligible. Similarly, EBCs are another neglected group when it comes to the distribution of important political assets. The social elites, though small in number, remain the torchbearers of Hindutva's developmental agenda.

Second, the BJP should also ensure that a new impressive class among Dalits and Adivasis should emerge as the new leaders, business entrepreneurs and influencers in the economic sphere. Such a directive will radicalise the conventional social justice policies that often address Dalit-Adivasi groups as the passive recipients of the state's welfare packages. Instead, Dalits and Adivasis should be identified as the essential components of neo-liberal economic development and have an equitable share in the profits of urbanisation, industrial production and technological development. More policy directives and affirmative action policies are required so that the Dalit-Adivasi class emerges as the crucial influencers in the global economy.

The possibility of a democratisation

One can expect that the new arrival of the subaltern social groups into the right-wing platform to curtail the BJP's aggressive communal rhetoric and force the state to deal with the concerns of social justice. The development has the possibility to make the right-wing platform conducive to the values of social reforms, to understand the ecological perspectives of Adivasis, and to democratise the higher strata of power. Such assurances and their effective implementation will make the BJP a substantive democratic party, responsible for the welfare and empowerment of India's subaltern masses.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

State of Parliament

Just this year, the new Parliament edifice was 'anointed' with the Sengol, a symbol of just governance.

Post-Independence, there was mutual respect across the aisle, and debates therein were animated and productive. Given the ongoing lack of trust and worse, it would take much more than a symbol for the House to uphold its dignity and vision. As a sequel to the Congress *Mukht* plan in 2014, the crusade is now seen to extend to the entire Opposition. This negates the very essence of parliamentary democracy predicated on debate and dialogue. And in its very antithesis, should Bills be enacted without broader insights, the Sengol must reluctantly step down.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

The Opposition is supposed to act as a watchdog in Parliament, but with the mass suspension of a record number of Members of Parliament from both Houses, there are clouds over our democracy.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

Corrections & Clarifications

In an interview of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, titled "Outcome of elections in Hindi heartland has shown that Opposition needs to consolidate anti-BJP votes" (December 16, 2023, some late editions), the word *Congress* was added in an answer given by the Chief Minister on the recent Assembly elections. It should have been *BJP*. It was an editing error.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Should an All-India Judicial Service be created?

Alok Prasanna Kumar

is co-founder and lead, Vidhi Karnataka

Bharat Chugh

is a lawyer based in Delhi and a former civil judge

PARLEY

Recently, President Droupadi Murmu suggested that an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS) will help diversify the judiciary. In the same way that the Union Public Service Commission conducts a central recruitment exam and assigns successful candidates to cadres, the recruitment of judges of the district judiciary is being proposed to be made central, following which they will be assigned to the States. This idea has been discussed in the past and has also been a part of the Union government's official policy for years. However, there has been no consensus on the proposal either from the High Courts or the State governments. Should an AIJS be created? Alok Prasanna Kumar and Bharat Chugh discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Aaratrika Bhaumik**. Edited excerpts:

The India Justice Report (IJR) 2022 shows that only 35% of subordinate court judges are women. No State has been able to meet the quotas for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC) categories in the subordinate judiciary. Is an AIJS the solution to this?

Alok Prasanna Kumar: All the States have been doing better over the years if you see Vidhi's data in the context of the representation of women in the subordinate judiciary. It might take some more time for the SC, ST, and OBC communities to get that level of representation, or at least proportionate to their populations. But the key barrier is the entrance exam; preparing for it is time-consuming. The requirement of seven years of practice to become a district judge also poses a problem because law as a profession is already very difficult if you do not have connections; it is doubly so if you are from an underprivileged community. Many High Courts also place requirements – that you have to have appeared in 'x' number of cases or had an active practice of 'y' number of years. This automatically raises barriers to entry, especially for women and other excluded classes.

Bharat Chugh: The State governments and High Courts which conduct the various exams have been doing their bit for affirmative action. From personal experience, I can say that for the last few years, the number of women who have joined the judicial services has been higher than the number of men. There is one point where an AIJS may help – different States provide for different patterns of reservations. I think some amount of rationalisation can help.

AIJS is a proposed centralised recruitment system for judges at the level of additional district judges and district judges across States. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Since cases in the district courts are argued in regional languages, do you think a central recruitment exam will act as an impediment for candidates who are not well-versed in the regional language? A contrarian perspective is that civil servants overcome this barrier through intensive language training.

BC: Not only are cases argued in the regional language, but there is vast documentation in the regional language. Therefore, an understanding of the regional language and the dialect of the people giving evidence is important. Sometimes, even customs play an important role in judicial decision-making. Intensive language training would take an enormous amount of effort. At the end of the day, we are deciding lives here and the smallest mistake in understanding the issues or the evidence may be irreparable. The need to understand a language is greater in our case than in the case of bureaucrats.

APK: I think implicit in this assumption is that the Indian Administrative Service has been a wonderful institution. But the way it is structured, the way it recruits and promotes people... I am not sure that is a model we want to replicate in the judiciary. I would rather have people with local knowledge serve local needs.

According to the data released this year by the Law Ministry, 5,388 posts of judicial officers are lying vacant in the district judiciary. Do you think a centralised service could tackle the issue of judicial vacancies?

APK: Judicial vacancies, as a percentage of the total number of judges, is 20-25%. Vacancies in the All India Services (AIS) are also 20-22%. In fact, as per the data of the Union government, of 4 million civilian central posts, 1 million are vacant. There isn't anything inherently superior in a centralised system that will make it necessarily more efficient in filling up the vacancies. The problem has been the ability to conduct these exams in a timely manner.

> There are multiple issues with our district judiciary and almost none of them will really be addressed by an All India Judicial Service
> **ALOK KUMAR PRASANNA**

BC: We have seen the number of vacancies in the AIS as well. I don't see how this can be a solution. The AIJS attempts to induct lawyers between 35 to 45 years to the cadre of district judges. There is a problem. A 35- 45-year-old practising lawyer who has spent 15-20 years in the profession is likely to be well-established in their State with a steady stream of briefs. If they make it an all-India service, which is again transferable, they may not like to leave their State and family. If the idea was to have a big talent pool, we will be losing out on that as well.

Mr. Chugh, do you think a national service for judges will be an attractive proposition for young lawyers? Additionally, what will be their career progression, since the number of district judges elevated to the High Courts is much lower than those from the Bar?

BC: I don't think a law student or a young lawyer who wants to be a judge is particularly bothered about whether they are serving an all-India service or a State service. More often than not, if there is a prestigious State service, the inclination would always be to join it and be closer to the family. Apart from metros, positions elsewhere in the country are problematic in terms of access to basic facilities. We have seen women judges not having access to even a toilet in some States. It is also time to look at a better pay structure. A successful lawyer on the private side makes in one appearance or a day what a trial court judge makes in a month. This needs to be borne in mind if we are to attract the best talent out there. Lastly, regarding prospects, we have seen that High Court and Supreme Court appointments have been from the Bar. For a young civil judge to enter the system is difficult. There are only a handful of examples of district judges who have made it to the Supreme Court.

Mr. Alok, a common rebuttal to the creation of an AIJS is that it is an affront to federalism. If it were to be implemented, how can we ensure that State governments and High Courts have a say in the recruitment process?

APK: It will be very difficult. The High Courts will perhaps determine transfer postings and have some form of disciplinary control. But it is a sub-optimal solution – why should the High Courts accept it? Today, they are in control of everything starting from recruitment to the eventual promotion or transfer of that particular civil judge. The State governments will have even less control. They will just be paying their salaries. The problem is that we assume that if the Centre does it, it will be a good job. There are problems in the system, but they do not require an overturning of everything. I am suspicious of the parts of the Constitution that were introduced in the 42nd Amendment. It was done in controversial circumstances by a government that had no legitimacy. Almost the entire Opposition was put in jail while passing this amendment.

At present, the independence of the district judges from the State governments is guaranteed by the fact that the High Courts play a significant role in their appointment, transfer, and removal. If the AIJS were to be created, how can we ensure that there is judicial independence?

BC: That is the biggest problem. I could pass a lot of decisions back in the day because I knew that even the Governor or the Chief Minister of the State could not take any action if my decision was to be unsympathetic to the government. This is all the more important because the government is the biggest litigant before the courts. It is problematic if the litigant were to decide who is to be appointed as a judge and for what considerations. The present system has worked well and the AIJS doesn't seem to be the better alternative. The way the 42nd Amendment was introduced was constitutionally suspect. All of this has possibly not been challenged because the AIJS never got implemented. But arguably, it is violative of the basic structure of the Constitution.

APK: There are multiple issues with our district judiciary and almost none of them will really be addressed by an AIJS. The need of the hour is to ensure that there is a smooth career path for those who enter the district judiciary to the High Courts and the Supreme Court. I think the real pressing need is that the areas outside the metros have a serious lack of infrastructure. The judges need to be supported so that they think that they are as much constitutional court judges as the Chief Justice of India.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Finding stories in numbers

Podcasts and videos allow journalists to explain better data stories and reach a wider audience

Sonikka Loganathan

There is a notion among some people that data journalism is scary. For them, excel sheets full of numbers, and charts and graphs with colours and lines and legends, can be overwhelming. When the Data Point section was first introduced on op-ed, it was a small square space at the bottom right corner of the page. It merely had charts. With time, the section was expanded to include some text. Later, it was expanded further to include more explanatory text. Despite this, we know that some people continue to read Data Point with some apprehension. And so, when I joined the data team, I saw room for opportunity.

Data stories need not be relegated to paper; they can be brought to life through multimedia. I haven't seen this being done extensively in India, except in financial publications. This is despite the fact that most young people consume news predominantly through videos and podcasts. This was an opportunity to not only reach a wider audience, but also help people better interpret the numbers and give them a reason to care about these figures by fleshing out the story, beyond the space restrictions of print.

There are two ways to do this: through audio and video. With the Data Point podcast series, I knew that rattling off numbers would push the audience away. As a podcast listener myself, I also knew that the audience would not like to hear my voice alone. So, we came up with a discussion-based format featuring up to three guests – experts on the subject of the data set being examined. While data show us facts, data stories do not always have the ability to draw conclusions or show us the nuances of a subject. For example, a Data Point looking at whether wealth or awareness play a greater role in diabetes incidences pointed to wealth. When this issue, and the corresponding data, were discussed with health experts and researchers on the podcast, we learned that because of changing diets and societal shortcomings (such as the availability of medical services or the kinds of work people do), the issue is much more complex.

The Data Point videos provide us an opportunity to provide context along with visuals. While in print we have text on the one side and charts on the other, on video, we show the chart while simultaneously explaining what it means. Some stories are complex and require more explanation. Solving this problem means walking the viewer through the data while telling a story and answering the questions, why is this important right now, and why does it matter to you?

Our latest video, for instance, looks at the recent floods in Chennai caused by the rainfall triggered by Cyclone Michaung. I took the story that one of my colleagues wrote for print and rewrote it for video. This means writing the story in active voice. It also means explaining the data the way I would to a friend, in a conversational, jargon-free style. And most importantly, it means showing viewers the data even as they listen to our explanation of it. With the flooding video, I showed the bar chart depicting rainfall patterns, but used arrows to show the viewer exactly which part of the chart I was explaining.

Platforms such as YouTube give us the chance to understand how people engage with our stories. We also get immediate feedback. While a majority of the comments focus on my American accent, which is beyond my control, it is heartening to know that people relate to the information. There were thought-provoking and nuanced comments under our recent video about the Indian Railways replacing sleeper and second class coaches with AC-3 tier coaches.

At a time when accusations of bias in the news is rampant, data journalism is extremely important. It is harder to argue about numbers than words. Through podcasts and videos, we hope that more people will be open to, and appreciative of, the power of data journalism.

sonikka.l@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

An arduous journey

The 809 passengers who were stranded near Srivaikuntam railway station in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu due to heavy rainfall on December 18 were rescued the next day. The rainfall caused havoc in the southern part of the State and led to the deaths of 10 people. The train had to be 'terminated at the station' due to unsafe track conditions. PTI

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 22, 1973

Geneva meet opens with row over seats

Geneva, Dec. 21: The first face-to-face West Asian peace conference got off to a shaky start to-day with both Israel and Egypt threatening to pull out in dispute over seating arrangements, delaying the opening session by 40 minutes. The U.N. Secretary General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, gavelled the session to order at 11-10 a.m. (15-40 IST), bringing together Israel, Egypt, Jordan, the U.S. and the Soviet Union to discuss solving the 25-year Arab-Israeli conflict.

Both Israeli and Egyptian sources said their Foreign Ministers, Mr. Abba Eban and Mr. Ismail Fahmy, threatened to pull out of the talks over a last-minute protocol tangle. The U.N. officials had arranged seven separate tables in the heptagon and assigned the Israelis to sit next to the empty table where the Syrians, who are not attending, would have been. Mr. Eban, saying that this amounted to "visually ostracizing" Israel, told Dr. Waldheim that he would "go home" unless this was changed. With other delegations arriving amid strict security – some members even had their own briefcases searched – Dr. Waldheim ushered them into separate rooms and began shuttling from one to another with proposals as the 10-30 a.m. (15-00 IST) starting time passed. Mr. Fahmy threatened his walk-out when Dr. Waldheim proposed alphabetical seating that would have put Egypt next to Israel. Instead, Mr. Fahmy proposed that the U.N., the U.S. and the Soviet Union be seated between the middle row antagonists. This plan was accepted.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 22, 1923

Ship-building in Indian docks

Calcutta, Dec. 21: The question of construction of Ocean-going steamers in dockyards in India and the need for Government help was raised at a meeting of the Indian Mercantile Committee to-day. The Indian Engineering Association in India has to be created by developing and extending the nucleus of industry, which is at present in existence. They are of opinion that ships should be built exclusively in private shipyards. They say that State encouragement could be afforded in various ways with great advantage to industry. In placing Government orders, opportunity should be given to local Ship Builders to tender. Active promotion and expansion by the State would go far to help the industry, for it would tend eventually to cheapen the cost of production.

From Page One

Winter Session ends day before schedule

Among those suspended is Danish Ali of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), which is not officially with the INDIA bloc; Mr. Ali had recently been suspended from his own party.

The Opposition's protests continued outside the House, with a controversy erupting over the mimicry of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar by TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee.

A protest march by all suspended MPs also took place outside Parliament on the last day of the session, with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge leading it.

In his valedictory remarks, Mr. Birla said that the Lok Sabha had recorded 74% productivity in the winter session over 14 sittings, and that the House had worked for 61 hours and 50 minutes.

He said a total of 18 bills were passed in the Lok Sabha. The legislation will result in a massive change in the legal system of the country. The Bills were also passed in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

The contentious Telecommunications Bill, which provides for the government to temporarily take control of telecom services in the interest of national security, and provides a non-auction route for the allocation of satellite spectrum, was passed by both Houses, as was the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill that seeks to establish a mechanism to appoint the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.

Mr. Birla said that 55 starred questions had been answered orally during the Session, and a total number of 265 matters were taken up under Rule 377. As many as 1,930 papers were laid on the Table of the House, the Speaker added. The Upper House sat for 65 hours over 14 sittings and addressed over 2,300 questions.

T.N. Minister, wife get three years in prison

However, since that procedure would require an application for suspension to be filed by the convicts and thereby make it a time-consuming process, he granted the alternative remedy of 30 days' time to surrender.

When senior counsel N.R. Elango pleaded for more time for the convicts to surrender, the judge said the convicts could approach the High Court once again and seek an extension if they faced difficulties in appealing to the top court within 30 days.

The judge had, on Tuesday, allowed a 2017 appeal filed by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti Corruption (DVAC) and set aside the April 2016 acquittal order passed by the special court. He then directed the convicts to appear before him on Thursday to decide their sentence.

Though the couple were given the option of appearing through a video call, they chose to appear in person. The judge asked if they had any oral or written submissions regarding the quantum of sentence to be imposed, as required under Section 235(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Minister and his wife submitted their medical records and said that they were suffering from multiple ailments.

Claiming to be innocent and referring to the 2016 acquittal order passed in their favour by the trial court, they urged the court to impose a lesser punishment. After recording their submissions, the judge decided the quantum of punishment after balancing the aggravating as well as mitigating circumstances.

Lok Sabha passes Bill on CEC, EC appointment

Mr. Meghwal added that the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991 did not have a clause related to the appointment of CEC and other ECs.

Earlier in March this year, the Supreme Court had ruled that the selection panel should comprise the Prime Minister, the LoP in the Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India. The court had said the order would hold good until a law was made by Parliament. Mr. Meghwal, in his address, said that the committee mentioned in the Supreme Court judgment was a "stop-gap" arrangement.

Till the Supreme Court ruling, Election Commissioners and Chief Election Commissioners (CECs) had been appointed by the President after recommendations by the government.

According to the Bill, the search committee, headed by the Law Minister and comprising two Union Secretaries, will shortlist five names for consideration of the selection committee for appointment as the CEC and ECs.

The selection committee, which would be headed by the Prime Minister and comprise a Union Minister nominated by the Prime Minister, and the leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, will select members of the Election Commission.

In case there is no LoP in the Lower House, the leader of the single largest Opposition party in the Lok Sabha will be deemed to be the LoP.

The selection panel will have the power to consider even those not shortlisted by the search committee. A vacancy will arise in the poll panel when Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey demits office on February 14 next year.

RS passes Telecom Bill amid empty Opposition benches

Concerned about interception clause, YSR Congress says safeguards needed to prevent misuse; BJD says State's role should have been clarified; BJP MP plays devil's advocate after Opposition boycott

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

Amid empty Opposition benches, the Rajya Sabha on Thursday passed the Telecommunications Bill, 2023. MPs from the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the YSR Congress Party expressed concern about clauses allowing the Union government to intercept private communications. In the absence of any other adversarial voices, BJP MP Sushil Modi took it upon himself to point out the Opposition's various criticisms of the legislation, even while defending it.

Mr. Modi, who was the second speaker, said the Opposition had often criticised the clauses that allow the government to temporarily take control of telecom services in the interest of national security, and that provide a non-auction route for the allocation of satellite spectrum. Defending the two clauses, he said that the 26/11 tragedy and several natural calamities have proven that they are needed. The "non-auction route" for the allocation of satellite spectrum is also essential for national security, he said.

The Lok Sabha passed the Bill on Wednesday. The legislation allows the government to retain its powers to intercept communications, by allowing the tapping of phone connections pursuant to orders issued by an authorised Union or State government official, "if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient to do so, in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, defence and security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, or for preventing incitement to the commission of any offence". Around 5,000 such interception orders were issued each month in 2015, the then-Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had told Parliament; no subsequent statistics have been revealed.

Sasmit Patra of the BJD welcomed the Bill but said that it should have elaborated the role of the States regarding interception and search. Since many border States face the direct brunt of cross-border terrorism, they should be kept in the loop, he said. S. Niranjan Reddy of the YSR Congress Party said that though the Bill does not provide for any judicial oversight, its rules should be clearly defined to guard the provision against any misuse.

Short debate

The debate came to a close within an hour. At its conclusion, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw applauded the progress made by the country in the sector. "In the last nine and a half years, India's telecom sector has emerged from a very difficult period marred by scams to become a sunrise sector," he said.

He said that during the same period, the number of telecom towers had increased from six lakh in 2014 to 25 lakh at present, while the number of Internet broadband users had grown from 1.5 crore to 85 crore. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has executed the world's fastest rollout of 5G technology, with most equipment manufactured indigenously, Mr. Vaishnaw said.

Parliament clears laws to repeal IPC, CrPC, Evidence Act

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amit Shah

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday passed the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita Bill, and the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, which will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872; respectively. The Lok Sabha had passed the Bills on Wednesday.

Hailing the passage of the Bills as historic, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said the Bills would replace the colonial-era criminal justice system. The Opposition members boycotted the proceedings demanding a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah on the Parliament security breach. The Bills were passed unanimously in their absence.

Mr. Shah said the Bills would mark a new beginning in the history of the country's criminal justice system. He said the Bills would form the base of making the country's justice system the most modern in the world.

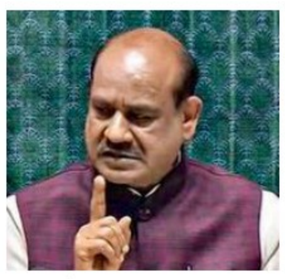
Mr. Shah said the criminal justice system was being governed by the three laws brought by the British after the 1857 struggle for freedom.

He said that for the first time, the justice system would be based on laws framed and passed by Indians. From FIR to judgment, all processes would be online and the new laws had tried to accommodate the changes in technology in the process of administration and policing, he said.

Mr. Shah said a victim would get justice within three years. He said the new Bills had defined all forms of terrorism and that perpetrators of organised crime would be punished. He said the post of director of prosecutions would be made compulsory in every district.

LS witnesses sharp exchange between Speaker and Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI


Om Birla

The Question Hour in the Lok Sabha on Thursday witnessed a sharp exchange between Speaker Om Birla and Union Minister for Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri over the use of language while answering a supplementary question.

Manoj Tiwari, BJP MP from Delhi, asked a question about the difficulties faced by migrant labourers in Delhi and West Bengal in the absence of Ayushman Bharat cards.

Just when the Minister started replying in English, Mr. Birla requested him to speak in Hindi if possible. "Mr. Speaker, I will reply in Hindi. I can reply in Punjabi if you wish, Manoj*ji* understands Punjabi... But a direction from the Chair comes on the use of language," Mr. Puri said as he started speaking in Punjabi. Mr. Birla intervened and said "You can reply in English as well. That is not a problem." He added, "If you want to reply in Punjabi, you have to give it to me in writing."

The Minister went on to say that even though the issue of Ayushman Bharat card doesn't come under the purview of his Ministry, he could sit with Mr. Tiwari and party leader Nishikant Dubey, who too had a similar query, to work out a solution and press upon the Chief Ministers of Delhi and West Bengal to implement them. "It's not my subject but we want to implement it. We have can have a *chai par charcha* [discussion over tea]. You give directions. You can give directions to the Aam Admi Party or Trinamool Congress to implement it," Mr. Puri said.

Mr Birla responded by saying, "You are a Minister. We can't direct any party from here [the Chair]. We can tell Union Ministers."

Under new law, doctors face two years of imprisonment for death due to negligence

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

New changes: Currently, under Section 304A, the punishment for causing death is two years imprisonment and a fine or both. ANI

Contrary to what Union Home Minister Amit Shah told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, the amended Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, 2023 (BNSS) does not provide a blanket exemption to doctors in cases of death due to negligence; instead, it prescribes a maximum two-year imprisonment in such cases, slightly lower than the punishment for other cases.

The amended Section 106 (1) of the Sanhita says: "Whoever causes death of any person by doing any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine; and if such act is done by a registered medical practitioner while performing medical procedure, he shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine." It further explains that for the purposes of this sub-section, "registered medical practitioner" means a medical practitioner who possesses any medical qualification recognised under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 and whose name has been entered in the National Medical Register or a State Medical Register under that Act.

The section was amended to include the clause on medical practitioners.

Replying to the debate on the three criminal laws in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, Mr. Shah said: "If someone died due to medical negligence by doctors it was treated as culpable homicide not amounting to murder. I am bringing an amendment today. Doctors have been exempted from punishment [under this section]. The Indian Medical Association had requested us [for the exemption]." On Thursday, when the three criminal law Bills were discussed in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Shah did not mention the exemption for doctors.

Currently, under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code, the punishment for causing death by negligence is two years imprisonment and a fine or both. The BNSS, which will replace the IPC, increases the punishment for such acts to five years but specifies that doctors will still get the lower punishment of two years of jail time if convicted.

'Bengal govt. should work for safety of journalists'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With empty Opposition benches, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur, while answering a starred question in the Rajya Sabha filed by Trinamool Congress member Dola Sen, launched a broadside at the West Bengal government for allegedly intimidating journalists in the State. Ms. Sen had asked whether the government had any policy framework or had implemented any guidelines for ensuring the safety of journalists.

Mr. Thakur said that while the Central government was committed to protecting every citizen of India, law and order was a State subject. In 2017, he pointed out, the Home Ministry had directed States to make arrangements for the safety of journalists. "There are frequent reports of deadly attacks on journalists and violent incidents from West Bengal. The State government should work to provide a safe environment to journalists," Mr. Thakur said.

'₹351 crore was recovered during I-T searches'

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

The Income Tax (I-T) Department, which had carried out simultaneous searches in Odisha, Jharkhand, and West Bengal in the first week of December, said "unaccounted" cash amounting to more than ₹351 crore was discovered during the searches. It is said to be the biggest cash haul in any single operation. "A large number of incriminating evidence in the form of documents and digital data has been found and seized," the department said.

Caught in a row, RSS says it is not against a caste census

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The statement, came after Shridhar Gadge, Sah Sanghachalak, questioned the need for a caste census

Days after one of its senior functionaries opposed a caste census, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Thursday said that any such census should be used for the improvement of society, emphasising that political parties must ensure that social harmony is not disrupted due to any reason.

The statement, being seen as a damage control attempt, came after Shridhar Gadge, Sah Sanghachalak of Vidarbha region, questioned the need for a caste census. He said that while it may benefit some people politically, it was not good for national unity.

Clarifying the Sangh's official stand through social media, Sunil Ambekar, head of publicity, said the RSS was continuously working towards its goal of creating a Hindu society free from any kind of discrimination and inequality. "It is true that due to various historical reasons, many sections of the society have been left out, from an economic, social and educational point of view. For their uplift, governments are planning various schemes from time to time and the RSS has always supported the same," he said.

He added that the RSS was of the opinion that the caste survey should be used for the overall development of society and that all parties should ensure that it does not harm social harmony and unity.

The Congress and some other Opposition parties have been demanding a caste census, which had also become a poll issue during the recent Assembly elections.

Parliament passes Bill to replace the PRB Act

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Parliament on Thursday passed the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill to make the process of allotment of title and registration of periodicals simple through an online system without the requirement of physical interface. It replaces the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.

APPEAL

Master Suvansh Sanket Dube, son of Sanket Kishor Dube 5 years admitted in Christian Medical College, Ranipet is suffering from Thalassemia Major. This is a type of life threatening blood disorder. The best option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant. The estimated cost of transplant in this hospital is approximately **Rs. 35,00,000/-.**

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Suvansh Sanket Dube, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google pay No. 9884607377 UPI id: savepoorlives@oksbi. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. 044 42044165 & 044 35691848, Mobile: 9884607377 Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

Don't make unnecessary comments: Mayawati to INDIA bloc

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Thursday said it was not appropriate to make comments about parties that are not part of the Opposition's Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) as no one knows when they might need in the future.

"It is not correct for anyone to make unnecessary comments on parties, like the BSP, which are not a part of the Opposition bloc. I would suggest that parties should refrain from doing it because you can never say who will need whom in the future in the public interest," she said in a statement.

Parties who give such statements have to face a lot of embarrassment later. The Samajwadi Party (SP), particularly, is a living example, she added.

The statement comes against the backdrop of reports that the SP was not in favour of reaching out to the BSP to join the Opposition bloc.

Speaking about the suspension of more than 140 Opposition MPs, Ms. Mayawati said it was a sad and unfortunate incident.

Will make INDIA bloc an effective force against BJP: CWC resolution

Congress to take a decision on Bharat Jodo Yatra 2.0 soon; party to announce manifesto committee for Lok Sabha election; poll debacle in M.P. and Kamal Nath's leadership come under sharp focus at the Congress Working Committee meeting

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Congress will be fully prepared for the 2024 Lok Sabha election and will take steps to make the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) an "effective bulwark and force" against the BJP and its allies, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) said in a resolution on Thursday.

Condemning the suspension of INDIA bloc MPs from Parliament in the "strongest possible terms", the resolution alleged that the suspensions were carried out "to ensure that the Opposition was not present to challenge the Narendra Modi government as it bulldozed three draconian criminal justice laws through".

Briefing presspersons at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters after the four-hour meeting of the CWC, general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said the party would get into the election mode soon and Lok Sabha candidates would be decided with the constitution of the screening committee this month. He added that the manifesto committee for the Lok Sabha election would be announced in a day or two.

Taking action: Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi at the meet on Thursday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

In his opening remarks, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge told former party chief Rahul Gandhi that several leaders and workers wanted him to undertake the second edition of the Bharat Jodo Yatra on the East-West route. Mr. Venugopal told presspersons that a decision in this regard would be taken soon and the details would be worked out.

The political importance of Ram Mandir inauguration at Ayodhya next month was also raised at the meeting, said sources.

At the closed-door meeting, the AICC in-charges of Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh gave detailed presentations. However, the debacle in Madhya Pradesh came under sharp focus, with Mr. Gandhi pointing out that the State leaders had given an assessment of winning over 140 seats in the 230-member Assembly.

When AICC in-charge for Madhya Pradesh, Randeep Surjewala, said that the Congress could not match the BJP's organisational strength at the booth and block level, Mr. Gandhi disagreed. He is said to have pointed out that while Congress's vote share remained intact, the BJP gained at the cost of smaller regional players – tribal parties, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and others.

"Rahul*ji* pointed out that we didn't pay attention on this segment of votes that went away while our vote share remained the same," said a CWC member, adding that Mr. Gandhi was confident about the Congress bouncing back in the Lok Sabha election.

Senior CWC member Mukul Wasnik questioned the effectiveness of Kamal Nath's leadership in the State despite being projected as the chief ministerial face. Some other members also pointed out that holding public programmes like reciting Hanuman chalisa was not the Congress's style.

Chhattisgarh's in-charge, Kumari Selja, without taking former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's name, pointed out that the State leadership had not been open to suggestions made by the AICC.

In Rajasthan, the issue of not changing incumbent MLAs and not having an alliance with the CPI(M) and the tribal party for the seats bordering Gujarat was discussed.

Mr. Venugopal informed the CWC that the AICC had mostly left the decision-making in the three Hindi heartland States to the State leadership.

Planning ahead

Stressing the need to declare candidates early, Shashi Tharoor is said to have argued that three weeks was not enough for a candidate to prepare for an election and the potential candidates should be informed much in advance. Several members also appreciated the ongoing crowdfunding initiative, Donate for Desh, and said that it would add strength to the "anti-corruption and anti-cronyism" narrative that the party wants to focus on.

On the Bharat Jodo Yatra 2.0, several members suggested that it should be in hybrid mode as Mr. Gandhi cannot walk the entire distance, with elections barely four months away.

Kharge slams govt. for passing key Bills without Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress chief alleges conspiracy to convert Parliament into a platform for the ruling party

Constitutional functionaries who are responsible for protecting Opposition members have become a part of partisan politics, and there are attempts to convert Parliament into a platform for the ruling party, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in his opening remarks at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on Thursday.

Though Mr. Kharge, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, did not name anyone, it was a clear reference to Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, both of whom handed out a record number of suspensions during the Winter session of Parliament.

"The biggest challenge is that those who are in Constitutional positions, responsible for protecting Opposition members, have now become part of partisan politics. Caste, region, and profession are being used as shields to do politics. They have failed to fulfil their constitutional obligations," he said.

The Congress chief also slammed the government for passing important Bills in the absence of Opposition members, breaking parliamentary conventions. "There is a conspiracy to convert Parliament into a platform for the ruling party," he said, while noting that the Winter Session witnessed the highest number of suspensions of MPs in Parliament's history.

First meet after rout

This is the first meeting of the Congress's highest decision-making body after the party's poor showing in the recent Assembly elections. Noting that the outcomes of the elections in five States, barring Telangana, were "disappointing", Mr. Kharge informed his party colleagues that the reasons for the party's performance had been identified.

"Despite the results, there are some positive indicators, such as the vote share in these States, which give us a definite hope that given due attention, we can certainly turn things around," he said.

Parliament security breach a serious issue, corrective measures will be taken: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Parliament security breach during the Winter Session was a "serious" issue and expressed confidence that corrective measures would be taken.

The remarks were reportedly made by the Prime Minister at the customary meeting over tea with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and leaders of different political parties at the end of the session.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and other leaders after the Winter Session on Thursday. PTI

The Prime Minister also made a note of the incident of a civilian sitting among the MLAs in the Assembly in Congress-ruled Karnataka. According to sources, Mr. Modi said that such a massive security breach had not received any prominence.

Mr. Modi was referring to the incident that took place during the presentation of the Budget in the Karnataka Assembly by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in July, when a person managed to enter the chamber and sit on an MLA's chair for some time, before being identified and removed.

The remarks by Mr. Modi gain significance in the light of the Centre's insistence that Parliament's security was in the domain of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and that it would implement whatever guidelines were issued by the Speaker.

The Opposition MPs had been demanding a statement from Union Home Minister Amit Shah on this issue. Protests for the same led to the suspension of 147 MPs from both Houses of Parliament.

'Avoid politics'

In a recent interview to a Hindi daily, Mr. Modi had said that the seriousness of security breach in Parliament "cannot be underestimated", adding that everyone should avoid politics over such an issue, in a reference to the Opposition's protests in the two Houses over it.

The Opposition leaders, most of whom have been suspended, kept away from Thursday's meeting.

Among those present at the meeting were Biju Janata Dal's (BJD) Bhartruhari Mahtab and Shiv Sena's Rahul Shewale, besides Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Pralhad Joshi.

While Shiv Sena is an ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the BJD maintains a neutral stand but has been supportive of the government over key decisions.

Delhi Police detain IT engineer in breach case

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Delhi Police have taken into custody an IT engineer from Bagalkot in Karnataka on suspicion that he was in regular contact with Manoranjan, one of the accused in the Parliament security breach case.

Saikrishna Jagali, 33, was the classmate and roommate of Manoranjan when they were studying in BIT in Bengaluru in 2008-09.

He is the son of V.P. Jagali, a retired Deputy Superintendent of Police.

He works for a Bengaluru-based IT company.

"Investigation into Mr. Gowda's mobile call records and diary led to the belief that the two are good friends and were in regular contact. Delhi Police searched the house. Later, Saikrishna Jagali was flown to Delhi on December 20 midnight," local police sources said.

His sister, Spandana, told presspersons: "He has been taken into custody only because he was the classmate of Manoranjan. However, there was no contact between them after college, as far as we know."

Bagalkot SP Amarnath Reddy has confirmed the incident.

Centre approves deployment of CISF in Parliament complex

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has approved the deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in the Parliament complex, according to a government order.

The decision comes days after the December 13 security breach in the Parliament. Eight Delhi police security personnel who were responsible for frisking and baggage scanning were suspended after the incident.

"In-principle approval of the competent authority is conveyed for carrying out the survey of the Parliament premises and its buildings for regular deployment of CISF (both Security Wing and Fire Wing) on comprehensive pattern under Government Building Security (GBS)," the order issued on Wednesday read.

The paramilitary force is deployed at other Central government buildings, airports, and Delhi Metro stations.

'Went undetected'

The accused, who entered on a visitor's pass recommended by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member Pratap Simha, had hidden the canisters in their shoes, which went undetected by security personnel.

The overall security inside the Parliament is administered by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

While access control such as frisking and scanning the baggage is the responsibility of the Delhi Police, the Parliament Duty Group(PDG), an armed component of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), is deployed in case an armed intervention is required. The Parliament Security Service, under the Lok Sabha Speaker, is the overall in-charge of security.

Court extends police custody of accused for 15 days

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Patiala House court here on Thursday extended the police custody of the four accused arrested in Parliament security breach case for 15 days, till January 4, 2024.

Special Judge (NIA) Hardeep Kaur extended the custody of Neelam Devi, Manoranjan D., Sagar Sharma, and Amol Shinde.

They were produced before the court on the expiration of their seven-day custody following their arrest on December 13.

HC seeks ED's response to actor's plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday called for ED's response on actor Jacqueline Fernandez's plea seeking quashing of an FIR against her in a ₹200 crore money laundering case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : KWA/SP-12/2023-24/HHD Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Hand-held devices (1000 Nos) with latest technology to be used for meter reading and spot billing in KWA, **EMD :** Rs. 2,00,000/-, **Tender Fee :** Rs. 25,000/-, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 15-01-2024, 05:00 pm, **Phone :** 8547638111.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Chief Engineer (HRD&GI.)
KWA-JB-GL-6-1854-2023-24 Jalabhavan, Thiruvananthapuram

CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834031, Jharkhand, India

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in** / respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in**"

प्रतिभूति मुद्रणालय / SECURITY PRINTING PRESS
(भारत प्रतिभूति मुद्रण तथा मुद्रानिर्माण निगम लिमिटेड की इकाई)
(A UNIT OF SECURITY PRINTING AND MINTING CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED)
(भारत सरकार के पूर्ण स्वामित्वाधीन / WHOLLY OWNED BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
टकसाल कंपाउण्ड, सैफाबाद, हैदराबाद / Mint Compound, Saifabad, HYDERABAD-500 063
GSTIN: 36AAJCS6111J1Z9 CIN No. U22213 DL 2006 GOI 144763
E-mail:spp.hyd@spmcil.com Ph: 040-23253621 Website: http://spphyderabad.spmcil.com Fax: 040-23456687
सं. / No.एसपीपीएच / SPPH/ए/A-II / विज्ञा. / Adv / 2023-24 / 2960 दिनांक: 22.12.2023

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना / NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

निम्नलिखित वस्तुओं के लिए योग्य एवं अर्हता प्राप्त निविदाकारों से निविदा आमंत्रित है।/ Tenders are invited from eligible and qualified tenderers for the following Items :

क्र.सं. Sl. No.	माल / सेवाएँ का संक्षिप्त विवरण Brief Description of Goods / Services	मात्रा / Quantity	निविदा सं. / Tender No.	निविदाओं की प्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय / Closing date and time for receipt of tenders
1	Post Card38cms width Buff Pulp Board	100000 Kgs	GEM/2023/B/4312969	04.01.2024 At 11:00 AM (IST)

अग्रिम विवरण हेतु, कृपया हमारे वेबसाईट: **http://spphyderabad.spmcil.com** & **http://gem.gov.in** देखें तथा कोई भी संशोधन / शुद्धि–पत्र वेबसाईट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जाएगा / For further details, please visit our website at **http://spphyderabad.spmcil.com** & **http://gem.gov.in** amendment / corrigendum if any, will be published on website only.
हस्ता / Sd-
प्रबंधक एवं सामग्री अध्यक्ष (कृते मुख्य महाप्रबंधक) /
Manager and Head Materials (For Chief General Manager)

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR.
Tender Call Notice No .H.O/P&C/EST-E-1226/02/2016, V-II 40230 Dated : 18.12.2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the Work : "Construction of Internal Road & Drain in Proposed MSME Park (SOUTH) at Panchapada, Jharsuguda".
Estimated Cost : Rs.166.99 lakhs (apprx).
Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Idco Tower, Bhubaneswar	Bid Id. No:-PC/EST/E-164/2023-24	17:00 Hours of 28.12.2023	17:00 Hours of 16.01.2024

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.Tendersorissa.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal **www.tenderorissa.gov.in and IDCO Website: www.idco.in.**
Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-3366: OIPR-14003/11/0319/2324

सीएसआईआर-संरचनात्मक अभियांत्रिकी अनुसंधान केंद्र
CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre
सीएसआईआर रोड CSIR Road, तरमणि Taramani, चेन्नै Chennai 600 113
अधिसूचना सं. NOTIFICATION No.SE-6/2023 & अनुशेष ADDENDUM (अधिसूचना सं. NOTIFICATION No. SE-6/2023)
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT OF JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW / PROJECT ASSISTANT / PROJECT ASSOCIATES-I & II

Positions	No. of Positions	Monthly Emoluments	Date of Walk-in-interview
Project Assistant	02 Nos.	₹. 20,000/- + HRA	28th December 2023 (Thursday)
Project Associate-I	09 Nos.	₹. 31,000/- + HRA (OR) ₹. 25,000/- + HRA	
Project Associate II	03 Nos.	₹. 35,000/- + HRA (OR) ₹. 28,000/- + HRA	
Junior Research Fellow	02 Nos.	₹. 31,000/- + HRA	

विस्तृत अधिसूचना के लिए हमारे वेबसाइट **www.serc.res.in** के होम पेज में 'Recruitment' पर क्लिक करें। For detailed notification, please visit our website **www.serc.res.in** and click on 'Recruitment' from the home page.
प्रशासनिक अधिकारी Administrative Officer

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A STATE GOVERNMENT UNDER TAKING)
HEAD OFFICE: Sri Sai Towers, D.No.10-152/1, 4th & 5th Floor, Ashok Nagar, Beside Siris Company, Bandar Road, Kanuru, Vijayawada-520 007.
Lr.No. P2/FRK TENDERS/1263/RF/II/ 2023-24 Dt: 21.12.2023
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
APSCSCL desires to call tenders for appointment of the Raw Rice Fortified Rice Kernel (Raw Rice FRK) Suppliers for Procurement of 10000 Mts of Raw Rice FRK in APSCSCL Districts through NeML e-reverse auction platform for Supply of Raw Rice FRK with Three Micro nutrients in 20KG bags for production of Fortified rice for Khariff 2023-24.
All the interested Raw Rice FRK Suppliers in all Over India may visit **www.apscscl.in & www.neml.in** to view and download tender documents at free of cost.
Last date for registration and completion of formalities for the e auction shall be up to **01.01.2024 up to 5.00 p.m** and the tentative date of online e-revers auction through **NCDEX e-MARKETS LIMITED (NEML)** platform would be **03.01.2024.**
Please contact Mobile No.9962059599. Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

कार्यालय अधीक्षक एवं सदस्य सचिव, राजस्थान मेडिकेयर रिलीफ सोसायटी, पीबीएम चिकित्सालय, बीकानेर
दूरभाष नं.: 0151-2220115, ईमेल: rmrs.pbm@gmail.com & emesbypbmhospital@gmail.com
क्रमांक:- रामेरिसो/पी.बी.एम./2023/49249 दिनांक: 08.12.2023
ई-बोली (27/2023-24) आमंत्रण सूचना
इस चिकित्सालय में CM-NNRY CM-CSBY व RGHS के अन्तर्गत चिकित्सालय के विभिन्न विभाग मरीजों हेतु औषधियों की दर संविदा के लिये 2 वर्षीय दर द्विपार्ट पद्धति हेतु दिनांक 08.12.2023, समय 04 बजे से आयोजित की जा रही है। इच्छुक बोलीदाता फर्म **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in)** पर उक्त बोली सम्बंधित दस्तावेज देख सकते हैं।
UBN No.: MCB2324GLRC00210
अधीक्षक एवं सदस्य सचिव, राजस्थान मेडिकेयर रिलीफ सोसायटी, पी.बी.एम. चिकित्सालय, बीकानेर
DIPR/C/15950/2023

INBRIEF

HC directs EC to decide on Rahul's 'pickpocket' jibe at PM

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Election Commission (EC) to take a decision, preferably within eight weeks, against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his public speech claiming that the BJP-led government at the Centre was being run by "pickpockets". The High Court remarked that "though the statements are not in good taste", the EC was examining the matter. The court noted that in the notice sent on November 23, the election body had said it would take appropriate action.

High Court tells Rahul Gandhi to take down his post on X

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to take down an online post put up by him on social media platform X in 2021 disclosing the identity of a minor girl who was allegedly raped and murdered. On August 4, 2021, Mr. Gandhi met the parents of the nine-year-old girl who was allegedly raped, and murdered in south-west Delhi. He then shared a picture of himself with the victim's parents. The post was later geo-blocked by the social media company. The High Court told Mr. Gandhi that although X had removed his post in India, it remained accessible beyond the borders of the country.

Got consular access to Indian national in Czech custody: govt.

Gupta was arrested on June 30 and is awaiting extradition to the U.S.; he has been accused of plotting to assassinate a Khalistani separatist

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Authorities in the Czech Republic have granted India consular access to Nikhil Gupta on at least three occasions since he was arrested on June 30, the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday. The U.S. authorities have accused Mr. Gupta of plotting to assassinate U.S.-based Khalistan separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, in collaboration with an Indian official.

"An Indian national is currently in custody of the Czech authorities pending a request for extradition to the U.S. We received consular access to him, at least on three occasions. We are extending necessary consular assistance to the individual as per requirement," Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, giving an insight into India's exchanges with the Czech authorities regarding Mr. Gupta.

A member of Mr. Gupta's family has gone to the Supreme Court seeking remedy in the case.

Legal issues: A member of United Hindu Front organisation holds a banner depicting Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. FILE PHOTO

Khalistan spokesperson

The Czech Republic's Ministry of Justice had earlier announced that Mr. Gupta had been arrested based on a request from the U.S.

Authorities there have accused Mr. Gupta of agreeing to pay $100,000 to a hired assassin to carry out the murder of Gurpatwant Pannun, who has emerged as a major spokesperson for the separatist Khalistan movement that aspires for a separate Sikh homeland in Punjab.

The U.S. allegations regarding Pannun have emerged as an irritant in the India-U.S. relations. Earlier this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the *Financial Times* that India would "definitely look into" the allegations if provided adequate information.

"If someone gives us any information, we would definitely look into it. If a citizen of ours has done anything good or bad, we are ready to look into it. Our commitment is to the rule of law," Mr. Modi said.

India receives price bids for 26 Rafale jets, 3 submarines

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India has received price bids from France for the purchase of 26 Rafale-M carrier-based fighters as well as three additional Scorpene-class conventional submarines.

While the Rafale-M is being processed through an inter-governmental agreement, the submarine deal is a follow-on to the earlier contract with Naval Group, under which Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL), Mumbai, manufactured six submarines in India.

The Defence Ministry has already set up a committee to arrive at the benchmark price for the submarine deal, sources said.

In response to India's request, France submitted a Letter of Acceptance earlier this week, outlining the pricing and other details of its offer for 26 Rafale-M jets which are meant to operate from the Navy's two aircraft carriers, sources confirmed. Meanwhile, MDL has submitted its commercial offer for three more Scorpenes to the Indian Navy on December 11, it has been learnt.

Don't use derogatory terms for persons with disabilities: EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Thursday asked political parties to promote inclusivity for persons with disabilities and not use "ableist" terms like dumb (*gunga*), deaf (*behra*), and lame (*langda*) in political discourse. The commission issued an advisory to all parties to this effect and urged them to abide by it in letter and spirit.

"The very foundation of democracy lies in the representation of all communities in the electoral process. Accessible and inclusive elections have been a non-negotiable premise for the Election Commission of India to ensure equal participation of Persons with Disabilities," the EC said in a statement.

Common examples

"Usage of such semantics in speech or campaign by members of any political party or their candidates can be interpreted as an affront to persons with disabilities. Common examples of ableist language are words like dumb (*gunga*), retarded (*pagal, sirphira*), blind (*andha, kana*), deaf (*behra*), lame (*langda, lula, apahij*). It is necessary to avoid usage of such derogatory language," it said.

The EC said parties and their representatives should not use disability or terms referring to disability in the context of human incapacity in public speech, writings, and political campaigns and should avoid comments that may be offensive or perpetuate stereotypes and prejudices.

"Any usage of such language, terminology, context, mockery, derogatory references or insult to persons with disabilities... may attract provisions of Section 92 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016," it said.

The guidelines further said that political parties "may endeavour" to include more persons with disabilities at the levels of members and workers, review all campaign material, including speeches, social media posts, and press releases to identify and rectify any instances of ableist language, use rights-based terminologies as mentioned in the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and not incline towards any other terminology.

Three Army personnel killed in J&K ambush

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

Three Army personnel were killed and three more were injured as militants ambushed an Army vehicle at Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

Two Army vehicles carrying troops were moving to an operational site when the terrorist fired on it at about 3:45 p.m.

"The fire was immediately retaliated upon by our own troops. In the ongoing operation, troops sustained three fatal and three non-fatal casualties," an Army spokesman said.

The incident took place during an ongoing anti-militancy operation at Dera ki Gali in Thanamandi, Rajouri. "The operation is on since Wednesday night," the Army said.

Security agencies have not divulged details about the number of militants hiding in the area.

WHO prequalifies a malaria vaccine by Serum Institute

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The R21 vaccine is the second malaria vaccine prequalified by the WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday added the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine, developed by Oxford University and manufactured by Serum Institute of India, to its list of prequalified vaccines. In October 2023, the WHO had recommended its use for the prevention of malaria in children.

The R21 vaccine is the second malaria vaccine prequalified by the WHO.

"The prequalification means larger access to vaccines as a key tool to prevent malaria in children, with it being a prerequisite for vaccine procurement by UNICEF and funding support for deployment by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance," the WHO said in a statement.

It added that both vaccines have been shown to be safe and effective in clinical trials, for preventing malaria in children.

Malaria, a mosquito-borne disease, places a particularly high burden on children in the African region, where nearly half a million children die from the disease each year. In 2022, there were an estimated 249 million malaria cases in the world, and 6,08,000 malaria deaths across 85 countries.

Rogério Gaspar, director of WHO's Department of Regulation and Prequalification, said: "Achieving WHO vaccine prequalification ensures that vaccines used in global immunisation programmes are safe and effective within their conditions of use in the targeted health systems."

Missing for 42 years, Namdapha flying squirrel resurfaces in Arunachal Pradesh

The arboreal mammal shares habitat with the similar red giant flying squirrel for which it could have been mistaken; a team from Assam conservation group sighted the squirrel in April 2022

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

A nocturnal flying squirrel has resurfaced in Arunachal Pradesh after going missing for 42 years.

The Namdapha flying squirrel (*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*) was last described in 1981 based on a single individual found in the 1,985 sq. km. Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district.

The failure of zoologists to locate the arboreal mammal during several expeditions thereafter generated two theories – that it could have been mistaken for the very similar red giant flying squirrel (*Petaurista petaurista*) sharing the same ecosystem or worse, become history.

Sighted finally: A picture of the Namdapha flying squirrel. It was last found in the reserve in Arunachal Pradesh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ten of these expeditions were by teams from Aaranyak, an Assam-based biodiversity conservation group, for a total of 79 days in 2021. A team from the group finally sighted the Namdapha flying squirrel in April 2022.

The team led by Firoz Ahmed included Sourav Gupta, a field researcher, and Sourav Mardi, a volunteer. Tajum Yomcha, a research officer with the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department, aided the search for the elusive species.

"We sighted a small reddish and grizzled furry mammal high up on a tree. After months of scrutiny of the photographic evidence we gathered, experts are pretty much sure that the animal is the Namdapha flying squirrel," Mr. Ahmed said.

Study to collect DNA

The team members said they are designing a study to collect DNA samples of the squirrel in the field for comparing the genetic material with the DNA of the individual collected in 1981, stored at the Zoological Survey of India in Kolkata.

"If the animal sighted during our last expedition is established as the Namdapha flying squirrel, it will be a powerful flagship for conservation for both the tiger reserve and other wildlife species found here," Mr. Ahmed said.

Disposal rate more than registration of cases, says SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A detailed statement released by the Supreme Court on Thursday said its rate of disposal of cases has been "unprecedented" in 2023.

The court said it has disposed of more cases than those registered between January 1 and December 15 this year. Figures shown by the court said it decided 52,191 cases between January and December in 2023, compared to 49,191 cases registered. "The disposal is the highest in terms of numbers since ICMIS [Integrated Case Management Information System] was implemented in the year 2017," the court said.

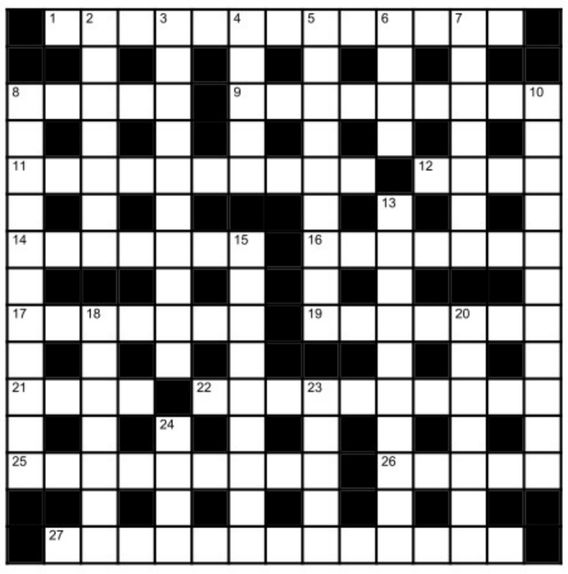
It said Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud's tenure saw the streamlining of the timeframe required for filing to the listing of cases for judicial hearing before a Bench.

TH CROSSWORD + 14052

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Barbarian is decent, amateur struggling to last till end of boxing bout (2,3,8)
8 Admired bar in expensive retreat (5)
9 Former US Secretary of State is smooching queen (9)
11 Where motors pile haphazardly? (10)
12 Food counter in fortress (4)
14 Really excited getting hold of dog - essentially more faithful (7)
16 Most vulgar American with couple of females in den (7)
17 Meeting most influential Republican (7)
19 Plants with many benefits (7)
21 Stench from estuary releasing carbon (4)
22 Wants dope to host drug party by end of December (10)
25 Medley by fantastic pro, it entertains crowd (9)
26 Loosen up in trip by noon (5)
27 Miserable after hot fight, we resolved to accept situation (2,4,3,4)

Down

2 Dwell too long with unacceptable associate in filthy place (7)
3 Stop on street after extremely hasty skid on wet road (10)
4 Quick glance by con concealing ecstasy, two kilos (5)
5 Lesson is about changes pertaining to a period (9)
6 Birds confined by setting up wires in aviary (4)
7 Nasty fellow leaves enclosure, stealing waterproof jacket (7)
8 Feature of road safety guidelines saving boy after a little mishap on journey (6,5)
10 Perfectly fine in hospital after doctor treated a strain (5,2,4)
13 From where one might lose link spontaneously (3,3,4)
15 Attention caught by rather unusual metallic element (4,5)
18 Expert in some art perhaps (7)
20 Slice of smoked meat, bit of potato and eggs for cleaner (7)
23 Sir is hoping to master language (5)
24 Architectural mouldings crumble over island (4)

SUDOKU

	7		1					
	3			9			5	
		5	4					3
		1			5			2
6								9
9			6			1		
4					6	8		
	2			8			3	
					9		4	

No.SS6015 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

		M	U	S	I	C	T	O	M	Y	E	A	R	S
			F		N		A		A		D		E	
S	T	O	I	C		P	O	S	T	E	R	I	O	R
L		L		H		E		C		N		S		A
I	D	O	L	A	T	R	O	U	S		A	S	C	I
P		G		M				L		M		U		N
P	A	Y	A	B	L	E			I	N	A	N	E	L	Y
E				E		V		N		R				S
D	I	V	E	R	S	E		E	X	T	R	U	D	E
D		I		S		R				I		N		A
I	D	L	I		T	Y	R	A	N	N	I	S	E	S
S		L		U		I		T		G		N		O
C	L	E	A	R	A	N	C	E		A	M	A	I	N
		I		G		C		I		L		R		
	U	N	D	E	R	H	A	N	D	E	D	L	Y	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	4	6	2	5	1	9	7	3
9	5	7	3	8	4	6	2	1
1	2	3	6	9	7	8	4	5
5	3	8	1	2	9	4	6	7
6	7	4	5	3	8	1	9	2
2	1	9	4	7	6	5	3	8
4	6	2	8	1	3	7	5	9
7	8	5	9	6	2	3	1	4
3	9	1	7	4	5	2	8	6

FAITH

Acharyas are like clouds

In verse four of Andal's Thiruppavai, gopikas summon Parjanya, the god of rains, and order him to rain. Devotees are close to Lord Krishna's heart, so the devata of rains obeys the orders of the gopikas, T.N. Aravamuda Thathachariar explained in a discourse. The Lord, after all, is the One who resides inside everyone, including the devatas. He is present in everyone as antaryami.

Lord Narayana has five forms – para, vyuha, vibhava, antaryami, and archa. The first three pasurams speak of the para, vyuha, and vibhava forms. In the fourth pasuram, Andal speaks of the antaryami form. It is said that the clouds refer to Acharyas. Scholars have compared Poigai Azhvar, Bhootatazhvar, Peyazhvar, Thirumazhisai Azhvar, Thirumangai Azhvar and Ramanujacharya to clouds. In Thiruvarangathamudanar's Ramanuja Nootrandadi, Ramanujacharya is compared to clouds.

The verse begins with the words 'aazhi mazhai kanna'. But some scholars point out that this can be split as aazhi mazhaikku anna. Anna means elder brother. Krishna is the generous cloud, and His elder brother is Balarama. Balarama is the avatara of Adi Sesha. Ramanujacharya likewise is the avatara of Adi Sesha. So, it can be assumed that Ramanuja's avatara, which is to take place in the future, is being suggested here.

INBRIEF

Ashok Leyland bags order for 552 buses from TNSTC

Ashok Leyland has bagged an order from Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) for supply of 552 ultra-low entry diesel non-AC buses for a total consideration of about ₹501 crore. The project is funded by the German Development bank (KfW). The BS VI 12-metre rear engine fully built buses for city operations would be delivered between April and July 2024, ALL said. Ashok Leyland has been the most preferred brand of TNSTC, having more than 18,477 buses in its fleet.

Greaves Retail unveils electric 3-wheeler outlet in Chennai

Greaves Retail, a division of Greaves Cotton Ltd., unveiled AutoEVMart, an electric three-wheeler master retailer outlet, in Chennai. "Described as a one-stop shop for a diverse range of e3w, it will address key concerns such as transportation charges and minimum order quantities for dealers," the firm said. The outlet will be backed by Greaves Retail's range of EV spare parts to ensure maximum vehicle uptime for commercial customers, CEO Narasimha Jayakumar said.

Bandhan Bank to transfer housing finance NPAs to ARC

The board of private lender Bandhan Bank has approved a proposal to transfer housing finance NPAs to an asset reconstruction company (ARC). In a filing on Thursday, the bank said the NPAs will have days past due of more than 180 days. The outstanding amount that will be transferred to the company is ₹775.62 crore as on September 30, 2023. The lender said it had received a binding bid of ₹280.39 crore for the NPA portfolio on outright cash consideration basis. PTI

'Rating firms' biases raise developing nations' funding costs'

CEA moots urgent reforms in sovereign credit rating methodology, cites India's rating being static at BBB- despite economy's rise to fifth largest

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's Chief Economic Advisor on Thursday flagged the 'opaque' methodologies followed by the world's top sovereign credit rating agencies including Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's, which significantly relied on qualitative variables to capture countries' 'willingness to pay' while assigning sovereign ratings to countries like India, thus raising their borrowing costs.

Prefacing an essay titled 'Understanding a sovereign's willingness to pay back: A review of credit methodology ratings', Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran and senior advisor Rajiv Mishra observed that these ratings "are binding constraints for developing economies, hindering their ability to attract necessary funds".

Mooting urgent reforms in the credit rating system to ensure ratings reflect a developing economy's true willingness to pay, they said this would enhance developing countries' ability to raise long-term financial resources by cutting funding costs and support their development goals.

Asserting that the stagnant nature of India's sovereign ratings over the last two decades had mostly

Anantha Nageswaran

been a result of unmoving perceptions about the country's governance and institutional qualities, the CEA said these were proxied mostly by the World Bank's 'Worldwide Governance Indicators'. However, these indicators tended to be non-transparent, perception-based, and derived from a small group of experts, and could not represent a sovereign's "willingness to pay".

'Non-trivial effect'

"Their effect on the ratings is non-trivial since it implies that to earn a credit rating upgrade, developing economies must demonstrate progress along arbitrary indicators while simultaneously contending with the discriminations the ratings tend to carry," they contended. In contrast, rating firms were hesitant to downgrade high-rated countries, typically advanced economies, even if their macroeconomic fundamentals deteriorated since they desired stability in their assignments.

India's rating had remained static at BBB- during the last 15 years, despite the economy climbing from the 12th largest in 2008, to the fifth largest in 2023, with the second-highest growth rate during the period among all the comparator economies. Thereby, any improvement in macro-economic parameters may virtually count for nothing, they averred.

The significant presence of qualitative factors in rating methodologies gave rise to bandwagon effects and cognitive biases reflected in various studies, generating concerns about the credibility of ratings. "From our quantitative analysis, we find that over half the credit rating is determined by the qualitative component," they noted.

"Rating agencies play a key role since their ratings are taken to be a credible metric of the credit risk associated with a sovereign. The level of risk, in turn, determines the risk premiums a sovereign would be expected to pay. Therefore, one would expect the... process to be based on comprehensively developed criteria supported by hard data," they wrote.

Revenue of shipping firms may dip 5-7% in next fiscal, says Crisil

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The revenues of domestic shipping companies may decline 5-7% next fiscal as charter rates continue to normalise, Crisil Ratings said in report.

This follows a steep fall of 23-25% this fiscal, after the 35% growth spurt in fiscal 2023 when charter rates had surged because of geopolitical conflicts, including the Russia-Ukraine war, and higher demand from China post-pandemic. "While the margin profile may vary widely across players operating in different segments, average operating margin may continue to moderate to 33-35% in the next fiscal driven mainly by the correction in charter rates," the rating agency said.

"However, it will remain higher than the pre-pandemic levels of 25-30%," Crisil added.

"We are seeing charter rates for crude and product tankers correcting 20-25% this fiscal from the average of $50,000/day last fiscal, as global uncertainties ease," said Anuj Sethi, Senior Director, Crisil.

RBI releases draft omnibus framework for SROs, seeks views

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday placed on its website, a 'Draft Omnibus Framework for recognising Self-Regulatory Organisations (SROs)' for Regulated Entities (REs) to develop better industry standards for self-regulation and sought comments from stakeholders.

The rapid growth of REs in terms of number as well as scale of operations, and an increase in the adoption of innovative technologies and enhanced customer outreach had made it difficult for the RBI to regulate the sector effectively, spurring the need for SROs.

The framework contains broad parameters such as objectives, responsibilities, eligibility criteria, governance standards, application process and other basic conditions for grant of recognition to the SRO.

The SRO is expected to adhere to a set of overarching objectives for betterment of the sector they represent and address critical industry concerns within the broader financial system, the RBI said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	70,865	0.51
US Dollar	83.27	-0.10
Gold	63,050	-0.07
Brent oil	79.18	-0.72

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2799.75	15.90
Adani Ports	1018.95	6.80
Apollo Hosp	5475.85	73.65
Asian Paints	3302.95	5.80
Axis Bank	1095.40	-14.85
Bajaj Auto	6246.35	-118.10
Bajaj Finserv	1666.85	-14.05
Bajaj Finance	7367.15	-126.80
Bharti Airtel	977.90	6.35
BPCL	449.55	10.10
Britannia Ind	5059.60	104.65
Cipla	1221.85	-14.35
Coal India	355.50	3.35
Divis Lab	3632.70	12.70
Dr Reddys Lab	5554.50	-24.65
Eicher Motors	3957.95	45.55
Grasim Ind	2085.60	22.05
HCL Tech	1422.05	-17.90
HDFC Bank	1686.70	29.70
HDFC Life	644.20	0.10
Hero MotoCorp	3850.15	34.65
Hindalco	556.25	8.05
Hind Unilever	2553.20	-4.30
ICICI Bank	1004.40	-2.25
IndusInd Bank	1570.00	13.85
Infosys	1536.00	-0.40
ITC	451.45	0.45
JSW Steel	841.90	-0.35
Kotak Bank	1852.70	26.20
L&T	3424.15	5.65
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6111.05	78.55
M&M	1633.85	-13.10
Maruti Suzuki	10012.85	-68.40
NestleIndia	25115.85	18.10
NTPC	301.95	4.30
ONGC	202.65	-0.55
PowerGrid Corp	232.35	5.20
Reliance Ind	2562.55	35.40
SBI Life	1403.75	-5.50
State Bank	643.75	7.30
Sun Pharma	1233.50	1.35
TataConsumerProduct	979.30	3.00
Tata Motors	708.85	3.60
Tata Steel	131.00	1.25
TCS	3787.50	7.45
Tech Mahindra	1250.10	1.50
Titan	3580.00	25.90
UltraTech Cement	9954.45	67.00
UPL	577.40	5.25
Wipro	434.00	2.05

Suzlon bags wind energy project from KP Group

Renewable energy solutions provider Suzlon Group said on Thursday it had secured a contract from the KP Group to develop a 193.2-MW wind energy project in Gujarat for increasing renewable energy contribution. PTI

CCI said to name Pattnaik as head of investigations

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has selected Ansuman Pattnaik as the new head of its investigations unit, bringing in a government official who has overseen investigations of companies such as Alphabet Inc.'s Google, two sources said.

Mr. Pattnaik has 28 years of experience working in various positions in the Indian government. He also worked at the CCI during 2014-2019 in its investigations unit, when he oversaw investigations into companies like Google for abuse of market power, and was head of the unit for a brief time.

M&M mobility arm partners Attero for EV battery recycling

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Mahindra Last Mile Mobility (MLMML), a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), has tied up with Attero, which is into lithium-ion battery recycling and e-waste management, for EV battery recycling in India.

"Attero has achieved an outstanding recovery rate for precious materials at its Roorkee facility," the firms said in a joint statement.

"The partnership between MLMML and Attero is specifically focused on the sustainability and recycling/reuse of lithium-ion batteries," the firms added.

"Teaming up with Attero as a preferred partner for Li-ion battery disposal underscores our commitment to provide a pollution-free transportation and drive towards a greener future," said Suman Mishra, MD &CEO, MLMML.

"The advanced solutions, backed by years of expertise, ensure that we can recover and recycle electric vehicle batteries with unmatched efficiency," said Nitin Gupta, CEO and co-founder of Attero Recycling.

LIC gets time for minimum shareholding compliance

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Centre through a one-time exemption has granted Life Insurance Corporation of India time till May 2032 to comply with the 25% minimum public shareholding requirement.

"The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, has decided in the public interest to grant one-time exemption to Life Insurance Corporation of India to achieve 25% minimum public shareholding within 10 years from the date of listing i.e. till May 2032," LIC said in a filing. The exemption had been given under Rule 19A (6) of the Securities Contract (Regulations) Rules 1957.

'EV 4-wheelers will log sales of one lakh units in FY24'

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The auto industry is expected to clock sales of one lakh units for electric four-wheelers (e4w) in the year ending March, a 90% growth in the segment over the last fiscal, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles business head Shailesh Chandra said on Thursday.

Tata Motors unit Tata Passenger Electric Mobility, which has a dominant market share of more than 71% in the e4w segment, expects sales to reach 25% of its total passenger vehicle sales by 2025-2026 and 50% by 2030, said Mr. Chandra, MD, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd.

He was speaking at the unveiling of Tata Motors' exclusive retail stores for its range of electric vehicles (EVs) in Gurgaon.

Among cities, Jaipur topped EV penetration with 24-25% relative to total four-wheeler sales, followed by Bengaluru (23-24%), Chennai (19-20%), Delhi (17-20%), Hyderabad and Ahmedabad (16-18%) and Mumbai (15-17%), according to Mr. Chandra.

Over the next 18 months, the auto major will aim to set up two to three EV stores in cities where they foresee promising growth in this segment of passenger vehicles.

Mr. Chandra said Tata Motors will offer EVs at prices ranging between ₹8 lakh and ₹30 lakh, as cost mainly affected sales. Another factor affecting sales is the vehicle's average range with one charge.

Piramal to provision for AIF units to meet rules

Reuters
BENGALURU

Piramal Enterprises said on Thursday it would set aside funds to cover its exposure to alternate investment funds (AIFs), days after RBI tightened rules governing such holdings.

RBI on Tuesday barred all entities under its regulation, including banks and NBFCs, from investing in AIFs that have investments in borrowers in the past 12 months.

As of Nov. 30, AIF investments by Piramal and Piramal Capital and Housing Finance was ₹38.17 billion, it said in a filing.

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING) NEW POWER HOUSE,
INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003 PHONE: (0291) 2742223, FAX: (0291) 2746539

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Tender is invited for purchase of Hardware fitting for LT Shackle Insulators under **TN-1968 (UBN JVV2324GLOB00604)** and LT XLPE Insulated AB Cable with Bare Messenger Wire for LT Over Head Lines Suitable for working Voltage Upto & Including 1100 V for size 1Cx25+25 Sq.mm under **TN-1969 (UBN JVV2324GLOB00603)**. Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl** and also at **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**.

Raj.Samwad/C/23/11782 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)

बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur – 302005, India
Tel No: 0141-2228066, 2228064, E-mail: edprmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

F.02(391)/RMSCL/PROCUREMENT/DRUG/NIPQ-08/2023/2270 Dated:- 19.12.2023

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS

Applications on prescribed registration form are invited by RMSCL, Jaipur from bonafide MANUFACTURERS / LOAN LICENSEE / IMPORTERS only for empanelment/ registration of bidders, for supply of Drugs & Medicines. The last date of submission of duly filled up form along with documents on e-proc i.e http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and Fees is upto 6.00 PM of 15.01.2024 Details of Registration form along with terms & conditons etc. can be downloaded from State Public Procurement Portal "https://sppp.rajsthan.gov.in" or http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or RMSCL website "http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in".

UBN No. – MSC2324GLOB00112
Raj.Samwad/C/23/11810 Executive Director(Proc)

Office of The Executive Engineer, PWD Dn. Gudamalani
No.3093 Date 12.12.2023

Notice Inviting Bid No. 10/2023-24
NIB-PWD2324A3958

Bid for Road / Building Repair and Maintenance work are invited from interested bidders upto 21.12.2023, 06:00 PM other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state, The approximate value procurement is Rs. 387.00 Lac.

UBN No. PWD2324WSOB17231 PWD2324WSOB17232

Executive Engineer
DIPR/C/16024 PWD Dn. Gudamalani

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Mondipatti, Manapparai Taluk, Trichy Dist. - 621306.
Ph: 04332-261600

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Description of work	Due Date
232423 003687	Latex-1 (Top Coat-Acrylic Binder) for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II	05.01.24
232423 003688	Latex-2 (Pre Coat-SBR Binder) for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II	05.01.24
232423 003692	Cationic Rosin for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II	08.01.24
232423 003689	Lubricant for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II	10.01.24
232423 003690	Cross Linker for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II	10.01.24
232423 003691	Pigment Dye - Violet (Wet end) for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II	11.01.24
232423 003699	Procurement of Forming Wires for Board Machine of TNPL Unit-II	05.01.24
232423 003700	Procurement of Dryer Screens for Board Machine of TNPL Unit-II	05.01.24
Email	232423003687; 3688; 3692; 3689; 3690 & 3691 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in 232423003699 & 3700 - purchaseimp.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC portal only.
Detailed requirements, Period, Terms & Conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/6745/Tender/2023 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त बारां
क्रमांक : 1982 दिनांक : 08.12.2023

निविदा सूचना संख्या 08/2023-24

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बारां जिले में ग्रामीण सड़कों का निर्माण एवं सड़कों का नवीनीकरण कार्य उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के एए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाइट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। यू.बी.एन. संख्या निम्नानुसार है:-

NIB Code : PWD2324A3928 UBN No.-
1. PWD2324WSOB17020, 2. PWD2324WSOB17021
3. PWD2324WSOB17022, 4. PWD2324WSOB17024

इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाइट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
DIPR/C/15902/23 सा.नि.वि. वृत्त बारां

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEF Bus Stop,
Baiyappanahalli , Bengaluru - 560 038. Ph: 080-25191120
e-mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in, Website: www.bmrc.co.in

Bid No.: BMRCL/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT11 Date: 22.12.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers **for "Upgradation of Schindler make Elevator Control System from Existing MX6 to Scalable Controller System for 21 Elevators of Reach-01 Station's & OCC Building of BMRCL".** Estimated Cost: **Rs. 203.7 Lakhs**. Tender Security Amount: **Rs. 3,05,550/-.** Tender Documents Available for download: **22.12.2023 to 22.01.2024.** (Pre-bid meeting: **16.01.2024 at 11:00 Hrs.** Last date of receipt of Tenders through e-portal: **22.01.2024 (from 10:00 hrs to 17:30 hrs).** Date & time of opening of Tender: **24.01.2024 (at 15:30 hrs).** Tender processing fee: As per KPPP. For NIT & Qualification criteria please visit BMRCL website: **https://tenderb.bmrc.co.in** Completion period: **30 Weeks.** Availability of Tender Documents: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (E&M)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PWD DIVISION SHAHPURA
(DISTT. SHAHPURA)

File No. 2115-29 Date:- 8.11.2023

Notice Inviting Bid No. 22/2023-24

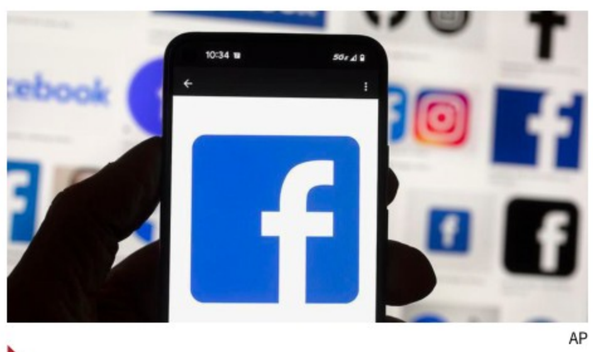
Bids for **Various DMFT work and Budget Announcement year 2023-24** are invited from interested bidders upto time 9.30 date 13.12.2023 to time 18.00 date 01.01.2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and PWD departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 4319.10 Lacs.

NIB No.:- PWD2324A3936
UBN No.:-
PWD2324WSOB17065, PWD2324WSOB17066, PWD2324WSOB17067, PWD2324WSOB17068, PWD2324WSOB17069, PWD2324WSOB17070, PWD2324WSOB17071, PWD2324WSOB17072, PWD2324WSOB17073, PWD2324WSRC17074, PWD2324WSOB17075, PWD2324WSOB17076, PWD2324WSOB17077, PWD2324WSOB17078, PWD2324WSOB17079, PWD2324WSOB17080, PWD2324WSOB17081, PWD2324WSOB17082, PWD2324WSOB17083, PWD2324WSOB17084, PWD2324WSOB17085, PWD2324WSOB17086

(Narendra Choudhary)
Executive Engineer,
PWD Dn. Shahpura (Distt. Shahpura)
DIPR/C/15927 Mobile No. 9983529510

BEIRUT

Human rights group slams Meta for 'systemic online censorship'

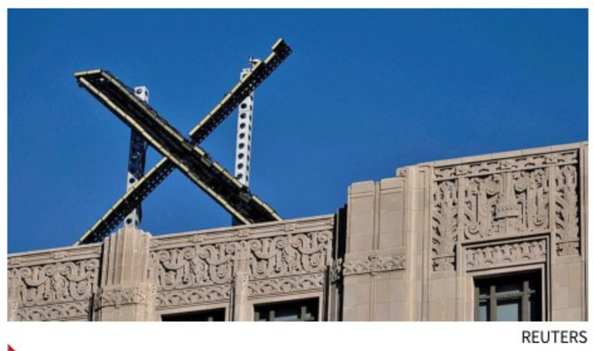


AP

Human Rights Watch accused Meta on Thursday of restricting pro-Palestinian content on Facebook and Instagram, decrying "systemic online censorship" since the onset of the Israel-Hamas war. HRW pointed to more than 1,050 takedowns. AFP

SAN FRANCISCO

Thousands of X users report global outage, cause remains unknown



REUTERS

Tens of thousands of global users of X, formerly Twitter, on Thursday reported problems using the Elon Musk-owned social network. Reports of the platform's troubles began spiking in the morning on monitoring site Downdetector and lasted for roughly an hour. There has been no immediate comment from X. AFP

SEOUL

North Korea's Kim again threatens to launch nuclear strike on rivals

AP

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said his country has a policy of not hesitating to launch a nuclear strike on its rivals if provoked, as he praised troops involved in its recent intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) test, state media reported on Thursday. North Korea on Monday conducted its first ICBM test in five months. AP

CAIRO

Up to 3,00,000 Sudanese fled their homes after RSF attack, says UN

AFP

Fighting between Sudan's military and Rapid Support Forces, a notorious paramilitary group, forced up to 3,00,000 people to flee their homes in a province that had been a safe haven for families displaced by the devastating conflict in the northeastern African country, the U.N. said on Thursday. AP

Israel bombs more Gaza targets as envoys seek truce

The head of the Palestinian militant group visited Egypt and talks were held in Europe, which raise hopes that Israel and Hamas could be inching towards another truce and hostage release deal

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

The Israeli Army said on Thursday it bombed scores of targets in the Gaza Strip as diplomats pressed on with efforts to halt the fighting that Hamas says has killed 20,000 people in the Palestinian territory.

United Nations relief chief Martin Griffiths called the surging death toll a "tragic and shameful milestone" as the UN Security Council was to again discuss a draft resolution calling for a pause in the bloodiest ever Gaza war.

The Army said its aircraft had struck another 230 targets in besieged Gaza over the past day, including a rocket launch site and a compound in the southern city of Khan Yunis, while ground forces had found weapons inside a school in Jabalia near Gaza City.

Deadly shot: An Israeli artillery firing towards Gaza, near the border in Southern Israel, amid the battle with Hamas. AFP

The war began when Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, killing around 1,140 people, mostly civilians, and abducting about 250, according to a tally based on Israeli figures.

The Hamas government's media office said on Wednesday at least 20,000 people had been killed in the Palestinian territory, with 8,000 children and 6,200 women among the dead.

In the far-southern city of Rafah, a centre for many internally displaced Palestinians, fireballs and smoke rose after explosions on Wednesday.

Hopes that Israel and Hamas could be inching towards another truce and hostage release deal have risen this week as the head of the Palestinian militant group visited Egypt and talks were held in Europe.

However, the stated positions of Israel and Hamas remain far apart.

A Hamas official said that "a total ceasefire and a retreat of the Israeli occupation Army from the Gaza Strip are a precondition for any serious negotiation" on a hostage-prisoner swap. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there could be no ceasefire in Gaza before the "elimination" of Hamas.

At least 15 dead, dozens injured in mass shooting at Prague university

Agence France-Presse
PRAGUE

An armed man opened fire in a university building in downtown Prague on Thursday, killing at least 15 people and wounding at least 24, sowing widespread panic with one of the Czech Republic's worst mass shootings of its kind, police and the city's rescue service said.

The bloodshed took place in the philosophy department building of Charles University, where the shooter was a student, Prague Police Chief Martin Vondrasek said. He has not been named publicly.

Police gave no details about the victims or a possible motive for the shooting at the building located near the Vltava River in Jan Palach Square. Czech Interior Minister Vit Rakusan said investigators do not suspect a link to any extremist ideology or groups.

Armed police on the balcony of the Charles University in central Prague, on Thursday. AFP

Pavel Nedoma, the director of the nearby Rudolfinum Gallery, said he saw from a window a person standing on a balcony of the building and shooting a gun.

Police said they were still searching the area, including the balcony, for possible explosives. The building was evacuated, Prague Mayor Bohuslav Svoboda said.

The building forms part of the square and faces a bridge across the river with a view of Prague Castle, the seat of the Czech presidency. President Petr Pavel said he was "shocked" by what happened and offered his condolences to the relatives of the victims.

Where tourists, students and others would normally be enjoying the view of the iconic monument instead reflected chaos and terror on Thursday afternoon. Police vehicles and ambulances sped across the bridge with their sirens wailing to each the empty square, which was sealed off by officers.

Some video footage from the scene showed people being evacuated from the building and others trying to hide by a wall.

China urges Philippines to make a 'rational choice' over clashes

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China on Thursday voiced growing frustration and anger with the Philippines's unexpectedly bold tactics in contested South China Sea waters recently, warning its neighbour to "make the rational choice".

But Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos hit back later on Thursday, vowing not to succumb to "coercion", insisting recent tense stand-offs in the disputed area highlighted his nation's "courage".

Ferdinand Marcos

Videos released by the Philippine Coast Guard showed Chinese ships blasting water at Philippine boats this month, and there was also a collision between vessels from the two countries during tense clashes at flashpoint reefs.

On Thursday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said that Beijing hoped the Philippines "can make a rational choice... and work with China to properly handle and manage the current maritime situation".

U.S., Venezuela swap prisoners in rare deal

Associated Press
MIAMI

The United States freed a close ally of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro in exchange for the release of 10 Americans imprisoned in the South American country and the return of Leonard Glenn Francis, a fugitive defence contractor known as "Fat Leonard", who is at the centre of a massive Pentagon bribery scandal, the Biden administration announced on Wednesday.

The American detainees were back on U.S. soil late on Wednesday, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said.

The deal represents the Biden administration's boldest move yet to improve relations with the major oil-producing nation and extract concessions from the self-proclaimed socialist leader.

Mr. Maduro celebrated the return of Alex Saab as a "triumph for truth" over what he called a U.S.-led campaign of lies.

Pak. arrests activists to stop them from protesting against killings

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's police used water cannons, swung batons, and arrested dozens of activists in an overnight crackdown to stop protesters from entering the capital to denounce the forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in the militancy-ravaged southwest, the organisers said on Thursday.

About 200 protesters, some of them families with children planned to rally in the capital to draw attention to the death of Balaach Mola Bakhsh. The 24-year-old died in November while in police custody in Baluchistan province.

People who are missing are often found to have been in the custody of authorities

Police say Bakhsh was carrying explosives when he was arrested in November, and two days later he died when militants ambushed a police van that was transporting him.

Activists say police were holding him since they arrested him in October, and suspect he was killed intentionally in a staged counterterrorism operation. Such arrests by security forces are common, and people who are missing are often found to have been in the custody of authorities, sometimes for years.

Sport

Barcelona finds unlikely hero in Sergi Roberto

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

Barcelona ground out an unconvincing 3-2 home win against basement club Almeria on Wednesday thanks to a late Sergi Roberto goal, moving it up to third in La Liga.

Xavi Hernandez's side ended 2023 with a win thanks to Sergi Roberto's double and a first-half goal from Raphinha.

Twice the 20th-placed visitors pegged back the Catalan giant courtesy of goals from Leo Baptistao and Edgar Gonzalez but it was eventually the home team which held out to claim the spoils.

Later, Athletic Bilbao went level on points with fourth-place Atletico Madrid after beating Las Palmas 1-0 and near the foot of the table, Rafael Benitez's Celta Vigo lost 3-2 at Villarreal. Patrik Schick scored a first-half hat-trick as Bayer Leverkusen thumped Bochum 4-0 at home to stay four points clear of Bayern Munich, which won 2-1 at Wolfsburg on Wednesday.

The winner: Roberto, centre, slides in Barcelona's third past Almeria's Maximiano. AP

Harry Kane's 21st league goal was the difference in Bayern's victory but Leverkusen continued its stellar record to claim the three points and keep the German champion at bay.

With January's Africa Cup of Nations in mind, Leverkusen manager Xabi Alonso rested several first teamers, including Nigeria striker Victor Boniface.

The results: LaLiga: Barcelona 3 (Raphinha 33, Roberto 60, 83) bt Almeria 2 (L. Baptistao 41, Gonzalez 71); Athletic Club 1 (Gomez 90+4) bt Las Palmas 0; Villarreal 3 (Pedraza 13, Mandi 40, Parejo 48-pen) bt Celta de Vigo 2 (Douvikas 52, Larsen 57).

Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Schick 30-pen, 32, 45+1, Boniface 69) bt VfL Bochum 0; Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Buta 90+2, Elvedi 90+8-og) bt Borussia M'Gladbach 1 (Woeber 27); VfL Wolfsburg 1 (Arnold 45+1) lost to Bayern Munich 2 (Musiala 33, Kane 43); VfB Stuttgart 3 (Undav 18, Guirassy 45+1, Fuehrlich 69) bt Augsburg 0; Heidenheim 3 (Dinkci 53, Kleindienst 84, Ginter 90+3-og) bt SC Freiburg 2 (Hoeler 7, 64-pen); Union Berlin 2 (Hollerbach 55, Fofana 78) bt Cologne 0.

Knotty Legend expected to score

BENGALURU: Knotty Legend, who has been well-prepared, is expected to score in the Frankel Trophy (1,100m), the main event of the races to be held here on Friday (Dec 22).

False rails (width about 5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 SHARAVATI PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 1.35 p.m.: 1. Silver Token (10) S. John 61.5, 2. Southern Dynasty (9) Darshan 58, 3. Cinco De Mayo (6) L.A. Rozario 57.5, 4. Ultimate Chance (7) Dhanu S 56.5, 5. Altamonte (1) Jagadeesh 55.5, 6. My Vision (8) Arvind K 55.5, 7. Antilope (2) P. Siddaraju 55, 8. Russian Romance (4) Antony 54.5, 9. Je Ne Sais Quoi (3) G. Vivek 54 and 10. Moving Ahead (5) Saddam H 53.5.
1. SILVER TOKEN
2. JE NE SAIS QUOI,
3. RUSSIAN ROMANCE

2 GOKAK FALLS PLATE (2,000m), rated 20 to 45, 2.10: 1. Anadale (4) S. John 60.5, 2. Saigon (7) I. Chisty 60, 3. Wonder Woman (8) P. Trevor 57.5, 4. Regal Aristocracy (9) Neeraj 56.5, 5. Sunlit Path (1) Hindu S 55, 6. Super Marvella (5) Shreyas S 55, 7. Southernaristocrat (2) Arvind K 54.5, 8. Walvis Bay (6) G. Vivek 54.5, 9. Ebotse (3) Antony 54, 10. Mystical Air (10) Darshan 53.5 and 11. Double Scotch (11) S. Saqlain 53.
1. SAIGON, 2. WONDER WOMAN,
3. SUPER MARVELLA

3 DEVARAYANADURGA STAKES (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 2.45: 1. Never Give In (6) S. John 60.5, 2. Sunway Lagoon (3) M. Naveen 59, 3. Treasure Chest (9) Inayat 56.5, 4. Vyasa (7) I. Chisty 55.5, 5. Sir Tristan (2) Antony 55, 6. Grizzly (4) R. Pradeep 54.5, 7. Elizabeth Regina (10) P. Surya 53.5, 8. Tankinika (8) L.A. Rozario 54.5, 9. Cristaldo (12) B. Harish 53, 10. Eco Friendly (11) A. Ramu 52, 11. Emeraldo (1) S. Shareef 51.5 and 12. Samachar (5) Jagadeesh 51.5.
1. NEVER GIVE IN,
2. TREASURE CHEST, 3. VYASA

4 KOLAR PLATE (1,400m), rated 60 to 85, 3.20: 1. Ravishing Form (7) I. Chisty 60, 2. Peyo (1) M. Prabhakaran 58.5, 3. Douglas (4) Antony 55.5, 4. Prime Abbess (10) Neeraj 54, 5. Del Mar (9) L.A. Rozario 53, 6. Fearless Joey (11) Ashok K 53, 7. King Of War (2) Saddam H 53, 8. Promise Kept (12) S. Saqlain 53, 9. Disruptor (3) A. Ramu 52.5, 10. Shabelle (5) Trevor 51.5, 11. Vivaldo (8) G. Vivek 51 and 12. Pink Jasmine (6) Shreyas S 50.
1. VIVALDO, 2. SHABELLE, 3. RAVISHING FORM

5 FRANKEL TROPHY (1,100m), maiden 2-y-o only, (Terms), 3.55: 1. Alpha Legend (7) G. Vivek 56, 2. Gismo (6) Vivek 56, 3. Global Influence (10) Ashok K 56, 4. Knotty Legend (2) Trevor 56, 5. Krystallos (1) Neeraj 56, 6. La Mcqueen (5) Antony 56, 7. Princeless Prince (3) Salman Khan 56, 8. Anzac Parade (4) Dhanu S 54.5, 9. Crimson Flame (8) I. Chisty 54.5, 10. Finley (9) Suraj 54.5 and 11. Golden Stride (-) (-) 54.5.
1. KNOTTY LEGEND,
2. FINLEY, 3. LA MCQUEEN

6 J.B. MALLARADHYA MEMORIAL TROPHY (2,000m), rated 40 to 65, 4.30: 1. Splendido (5) S. John 60, 2. All Attraction (6) G. Vivek 57, 3. Amazing Attraction (2) Trevor 51.5, 4. Granpar (1) Neeraj 51.5, 5. Castaneda (3) S. Saqlain 51 and 6. Stravinsky (4) L.A. Rozario 51.
1. STRAVINSKY, 2. SPLENDIDO

7 CHITRADURGA PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 5.05: 1. Air Display (1) Vivek 60, 2. Anakin (5) P. Siddaraju 59.5, 3. Golden Time (10) G. Vivek 58, 4. Millbrook (6) Antony 57.5, 5. Spectacular (2) A. Ramu 56.5, 6. Classic Charm (9) I. Chisty 56, 7. Smithsonian (7) Darshan 56, 8. Four Wheel Drive (3) Inayat 55, 9. Turkoman (8) S. Shareef 53.5 and 10. High Opinion (4) Hindu S 50.
1. HIGH OPINION,
2. FOUR WHEEL DRIVE,
3. GOLDEN TIME

Day's best: STRAVINSKY

Double: NEVER GIVE IN - VIVALDO

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

IN A BIND

I constantly felt on edge while facing Sneh's bowling: McGrath

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Tahlia McGrath top-scored for Australia on day one of the one-off Test against India on Thursday. She put down her side's batting woes to the tight spells bowled by the Indian spinners. "I constantly felt on edge against Sneh (Rana). The left-right combination with Beth Mooney was crucial to throw the bowler off, but she got me."

EXCITED

A strange feeling, says Ravindra on seeing his name in IPL auction

PTI

New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra described the moment when his name appeared during the IPL auction as "strange". "It was a strange feeling, but it was nice to have a couple of boys around me. It's really exciting; you grow up watching IPL, always weird to see yourself on TV with paddles going up."

PRIORITY

Stokes and Archer will have T20 World Cup places kept open: Mott

GETTY IMAGES

Ben Stokes' match-winning prowess and Jofra Archer's "box-office pace" are a must for England in the T20 World Cup and the two will have places kept open in the team for them, said coach Matthew Mott. Stokes is recovering from a knee operation while Archer has not featured for England since March because of an elbow injury.

UNCONVINCED

Gillespie backs Starc's IPL deal but questions Cummins price tag

AFP

Former Australia pacer Jason Gillespie has questioned Pat Cummins' massive IPL price tag, saying T20 cricket is not the quick's best format but backed Mitchell Starc's jaw-dropping ₹24.75 crore deal. "Pat's obviously a quality bowler and a quality leader, we've seen that. I just don't think T20 is his best format," Gillespie said.

Samson hits maiden ton; India has the last laugh

His 114-ball 108 and the 116-run stand with Tilak pulls the Men in Blue out of the woods and helps them reach 296; Arshdeep, Washington derail South Africa's chase with crucial strikes

INDIA IN SA

Press Trust of India
PAARL

India rode on Sanju Samson's maiden ODI century and Arshdeep Singh's four-wicket haul to beat South Africa by 78 runs at Boland Park on Thursday and clinch the three-match ODI series 2-1.

Chasing 297, South Africa was off to a strong start as Reeza Hendricks and Tony de Zorzi put up a 59-run opening stand in quick time. Arshdeep then got Hendricks to play away from the body and edge a catch behind to the wicketkeeper.

Though de Zorzi continued his rich vein of form, Rassie van der Dussen and Aiden Markram fell to the spin duo of Axar Patel and Washington Sundar respectively as the hosts fell well short.

Earlier, Samson (108, 114b, 6x4, 3x6) found an ideal foil in the patient Tilak Varma, who struck his first ODI fifty (52, 77b, 5x4, 1x6), as they added 116 for the fourth wicket. The two came together when India was wobbling at 101 for three after being asked to bat first. Usually a free-flowing batter, Samson curbed his natural instincts, concentrating on singles and twos.

Samson also brought out his T20 avatar, smashing left-arm pacer Nandre Burger for a six over mid-wicket and playing an exquisite inside-out shot over cover off left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj for a four. His fifty came off 66 balls with a single to third man off the other left-arm pacer Beuran Hendricks.

Basking in glory: India registered its second ODI series triumph on South Africa soil. REUTERS

At the other end, Tilak struggled to find his rhythm and finally scored a boundary – a pull off Hendricks – off the 39th delivery he faced. The left-hander, however, hung around with Samson and pulled India out of the woods. Tilak finally fell while trying to accelerate, a mistimed sweep off Maharaj ending in the hands of Wiaan Mulder in the deep.

But Samson carried on and was not to be denied a hundred this time. The landmark moment came when he pushed Maharaj to long-off for a single. Samson was eventually dismissed when he skied pacer Lizaad Williams to Reeza Hendricks.

However, a cameo by Rinku Singh (38, 27b, 3x4, 2x6) helped India sustain the momentum and go on to win for the second time in South Africa after the 2018 series win.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Rajat Patidar b Burger 22 *(16b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Sai Sudharsan lbw b Beuran 10 *(16b, 1x4)*, Sanju Samson c Reeza b Williams 108 *(114b, 6x4, 3x6)*, K.L. Rahul c Klaasen b Mulder 21 *(35b, 2x4)*, Tilak Varma c Mulder b Maharaj 52 *(77b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Rinku Singh c Reeza b Burger 38 *(27b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Axar Patel c Mulder b Beuran 1 *(3b)*, Washington Sundar c Markram b Beuran 14 *(9b, 2x4)*, Arshdeep Singh (not out) 7 *(2b, 1x6)*, Avesh Khan (not out) 1 *(2b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-5, w-15, nb-1): 22; Total (for eight wkts. in 50 overs): 296.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-34 (Patidar, 4.4 overs), 2-49 (Sudharsan, 7.3), 3-101 (Rahul, 18.5), 4-217 (Tilak, 41.2), 5-246 (Samson, 45.3), 6-255 (Axar, 46.3), 7-277 (Washington, 48.5), 8-293 (Rinku, 49.3).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Burger 9-0-64-2, Williams 10-0-71-1, Beuran 9-0-63-3, Mulder 7-0-36-1, Maharaj 10-2-37-1, Markram 5-0-19-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

Reeza Hendricks c Rahul b Arshdeep 19 *(24b, 3x4)*, Tony de Zorzi lbw b Arshdeep 81 *(87b, 6x4, 3x6)*, Rassie van der Dussen b Axar 2 *(17b)*, Aiden Markram c Rahul b Washington 36 *(41b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Heinrich Klaasen c Sudharsan b Avesh 21 *(22b, 3x4)*, David Miller c Rahul b Mukesh 10 *(20b)*, Wiaan Mulder c Rahul b Washington 1 *(3b)*, Keshav Maharaj c Rinku b Arshdeep 14 *(27b)*, Beuran Hendricks c Samson b Avesh 18 *(26b, 2x4)*, Lizaad Williams lbw b Arshdeep 2 *(3b)*, Nandre Burger (not out) 1 *(7b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-10, nb-2): 13; Total (in 45.5 overs): 218.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-59 (Reeza, 8.2), 2-76 (van der Dussen, 14.4), 3-141 (Markram, 25.5), 4-161 (de Zorzi, 29.4), 5-174 (Klaasen, 32.2), 6-177 (Mulder, 33.2), 7-192 (Miller, 37.6), 8-210 (Maharaj, 42.6), 9-216 (Williams, 44.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Mukesh 9-0-56-1, Arshdeep 9-1-30-4, Avesh 7.5-0-45-2, Washington 10-0-38-2, Axar 10-0-48-1.

Toss: South Africa.

PoM: Samson; **PoS:** Arshdeep.

India won by 78 runs to clinch series 2-1.

Sanjay becomes the new president as Brij Bhushan loyalists sweep polls

WFI ELECTIONS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The much-delayed elections to the Wrestling Federation of India were finally held on Thursday, with the results and responses on expected lines as the supporters of former president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh swept into power with a thumping majority.

Sanjay Kumar Singh from Uttar Pradesh was elected president with 40 votes against seven for former Commonwealth Games gold medallist Anita Sheoran as 13 of the 15 posts to which elections were held were won by the loyalists of former president Brij Bhushan. The results meant that Brij Bhushan continues to hold sway over the sport – the newly elected president made Brij Bhushan's residence his first port of call after his victory.

Even the two posts that went to the rivals – senior vice-president Devender Kadian and secretary-general Prem Chand Lochab of RSPB – were called "our people" by Sanjay who spoke at length at how the new federation would work.

"We will try to hold nationals in age-group competitions and National camps to make sure the year is not wasted. Other than that, those wrestlers who want to play will be on the mat, those who want to do politics will be replied to in the political arena," was all Sanjay Kumar said over the din of hundreds of supporters who thronged the Indian Olympic Association office all day.

Posing with Sanjay – their association goes back decades – at his residence, Brij Bhushan declared that the elections had been held as per everyone's wishes.

The extreme step: Sakshi, unable to hide her disappointment and tears, decided to retire from wrestling. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

"No one from my family or relatives contested. Those who participated and won were decided by federation officials and elections were held as per the constitution and approved norms and guidelines. The result proves what people in wrestling want across the country," he said.

Less than a kilometre away, the three wrestlers who were the face of the protests against Brij Bhushan – Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia – held a press conference expressing their disappointment that abruptly ended in Sakshi declaring her decision to quit the sport, dropping her wrestling shoes on the table and leaving in tears.

"It took us years to gather courage for the protest but we all know the result today. The government's commitment also has not been fulfilled, we wanted a woman president but today not one woman has been elected, which proves women have never had any role in Indian wrestling. "We thank everyone who supported us through the protests but if the president now is someone close to Brij Bhushan, then I give up wrestling on this stage today," Sakshi announced.

"We were fighting against the harassment of women wrestlers. Many were saying we were finished but we were also active wrestlers and winning medals for the country... you can see our records in the last few years.

"I don't think we will get justice. Initially there were 15-20 complainants, that's gone down to six now and they are trying to break them also. But we still have faith in the judiciary," Bajrang hoped while Vinesh shrugged that their worst fears had come true.

"They were saying from the start that they will win. We know their power and position but it is sad that such people are getting such positions in the country.

"Sanjay Singh is closer to Brij Bhushan than even his own son. I feel sad that we could not bring any improvement in Indian wrestling. From roads to mats to closed doors, we told everyone what was happening but still people who harass women are being elected. I don't know how to get justice in our country," she wondered.

The elections had earlier been scheduled for August 12 before a last-minute stay halted the process, vacated by the Supreme Court on November 28. "We were confident our supporters will win because of the work we have done for Indian wrestling. But now I am not involved anymore.

"They can always consult me if needed but I will only request the new federation to hold at least the cadet and junior Nationals before December 31. I hope the new federation does even better than us," said Brij Bhushan.

The elected members:

President: Sanjay Kumar Singh; **Senior vice-president:** Devender Kadian; **Vice-presidents:** Kartar Singh, Asit Kumar Saha, N. Phoney, Jai Prakash; **Secretary-general:** Prem Chand Lochab; **Treasurer:** Satya Pal Singh Deswal; **Joint secretaries:** B.G. Shetty, R.K. Purushotham; **Executive members:** Prashant Rai, Rajnish Kumar, M. Loganathan, N. Khatsil, Ummed Singh.

Pooja, Sneh make Australia fall like a house of cards

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

A diamond duck, an Indian pacer wreaking havoc and a largely clueless visiting side – how many of you had any of these in your bingo card for the one-off Test between India and Australia? After bowling out the Alyssa Healy-led side for just 219, India ended day one of the red-ball fixture with a score of 98/1 at the Wankhede Stadium here on Thursday.

After opting to bat, Australia got off to the most horrifying of starts when miscommunication between openers Beth Mooney and Phoebe Litchfield cost the latter her wicket without even facing a ball. Ellyse Perry got off the mark right away edging a ball through the slips for four. However, Pooja Vastrakar smoked out the veteran allrounder with a jaffa that left the timber in disarray.

Vice-captain Tahlia McGrath joined a very uncomfortable Mooney, who struggled to find her rhythm on a Wankhede pitch that had plenty of seam assistance. McGrath's 80-run partnership off 122 balls for the third wicket steadied the Aussie innings, but she fell soon enough to a miserly Sneh Rana.

Skipper Healy looked in control but could only make a 75-ball 38.

Jess Jonassen's 30-run stand for the ninth wicket helped Australia cross the 200-run mark. Rana removed Kim Garth to bring the curtains down on the Aussie innings, with Pooja falling short of a fifer.

Fiery attack: Pooja was on fire, falling just short of a five-for. EMMANUAL YOGINI

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: Beth Mooney c Sneh b Pooja 40 *(94b, 2x4)*, Phoebe Litchfield run out 0 *(0b)*, Ellyse Perry b Pooja 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Tahlia McGrath c Rajeshwari b Sneh 50 *(56b, 8x4)*, Alyssa Healy b Deepti 38 *(75b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Annabel Sutherland lbw b Pooja 16 *(58b, 2x4)*, Ashleigh Gardner c Yastika b Pooja 11 *(26b, 1x4)*, Jess Jonassen lbw b Deepti 19 *(61b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Alana King c Yastika b Sneh 5 *(11b, 1x4)*, Kim Garth (not out) 28 *(71b, 2x4)*, Lauren Cheatle c Smriti b Sneh 6 *(13b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-1): 2; Total (in 77.4 overs): 219.

Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Litchfield, 0.6 overs), 2-7 (Perry, 1.4), 3-87 (McGrath, 21.6), 4-103 (Mooney, 28.6), 5-143 (Healy, 45.1), 6-159 (Sutherland, 50.6), 7-160 (Gardner, 52.1), 8-168 (King, 55.1), 9-198 (Jonassen, 70.4).

India bowling: Renuka 7-0-35-0, Pooja 16-2-53-4, Sneh 22.4-4-56-3, Rajeshwari 13-4-29-0, Deepti 19-3-45-2.

India — 1st innings: Shafali Verma lbw b Jonassen 40 *(59b, 8x4)*, Smriti Mandhana (batting) 43 *(49b, 8x4)*, Sneh Rana (batting) 4 *(8b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-8, lb-1, nb-2): 11; Total (for one wkt. in 19 overs): 98.

Fall of wicket: 1-90 (Shafali, 16.4).

Australia bowling: Cheatle 4-2-12-0, Garth 4-0-34-0, Perry 4-0-31-0, Gardner 5-3-8-0, Jonassen 2-1-4-1.

Toss: Australia.

Manika, Manav stunned; Sreeja, Sharath survive

NATIONAL TT

Rakesh Rao
PANCHKULA

Haryana's Bengal-import Prithoki Chakraborty took out top seed Manika Batra on a day of upsets in the National table tennis championship here on Thursday.

On a day when men's second seed Manav Thakkar, sixth seed Sanil Shetty and seventh seed S.F.R. Snehit failed to take their allotted spots in the quarterfinals, fourth seed and 10-time winner Sharath Kamal bounced back from 6-8 in the decider against young Yashansh Malik.

In women's singles, Moumita Dutta, Yashaswini Ghorpade, Sutirtha Mukherjee, seeded five, six and seven, fell short of the quarterfinals. But Manika's exit overshadowed everything else.

Though Prithoki lost to Gujarat's Radhapriya Goyal after squandering four match-points in the pre-quarterfinals, she remained the newsmaker of the day. Her 11-7, 4-11, 12-10, 8-11, 11-8 second-round triumph over Manika in 33 minutes remained the talking point.

The results: Pre-quarterfinals: Men: 1-Harmeet Desai (Pet) bt 16-Sourav Saha (Ben) 11-7, 11-6, 11-7; 8-Jeet Chandra (AAI) bt 9-A. Amalraj (Pet) 6-11, 11-5, 11-5, 8-11, 11-7; 5-Manush Shah (RBI) bt 12-Ronit Bhanja (Rlys) 4-11, 11-13, 11-8, 11-7, 11-7; 4-Sharath Kamal (Pet) bt Yashansh Malik (Del) 12-10, 5-11, 11-3, 4-11, 11-9; 3-G. Sathiyan (Pet) bt 14-Payas Jain (Del) 13-11, 11-8, 12-10; 11-Akash Pal (Rlys) bt 6-Sanil Shetty (Pet) 11-7, 5-11, 5-11, 14-12, 12-10; 10-Ankur Bhattacharjee (Ben) bt 7-S. F. R. Snehit (AAI) 6-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-8, 11-8; 15-Anirban Ghosh (Rlys) bt 2-Manav Thakkar (Pet) 11-6, 9-11, 11-3, 6-11, 11-5; (third round): Yashansh Malik (Del) bt 13-Sudhanshu Grover (Del) 11-5, 9-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9.

Women: 16-Pritha Vartikar (Mah) bt Radhapriya Goel (Guj) 11-5, 13-11, 11-4; 8-Diya Chitale (RBI) bt 9-Anusha Kutumbvale (Rlys) 8-11, 11-4, 11-3, 11-6; Suhana Saini (Har) bt 12-Mouma Das (Pet) 11-8, 6-11, 11-4, 11-9; 4-Ayhika Mukherjee (RBI) bt 13-Yashini Sivashankar (TN) 11-6, 11-9, 11-9; 3-Archana Kamath (Pet) bt Takeme Sarkar (Rlys) 6-11, 13-11, 11-8, 11-9; 11-Poymantee Baisya (Rlys) bt 6-Yashaswini Ghorpade (Kar) 11-9, 7-11, 11-8, 4-11, 11-6; 10-Sayali Wani (Mah) bt Prapti Sen (Ben) 11-5, 11-5, 11-6; 2-Sreeja Akula (RBI) bt 15-Lakshita Narang (Del) 9-11, 12-14, 11-3, 11-9, 11-5.

INBRIEF

Indians do well in the Asian youth chess championship

Harsh Suresh (Under-16 open, *in pic left*) and Kiyana Parihar (Under-8 girls, *in pic right*) triumped in the Asian youth chess championship at Al Ain (UAE) on Thursday. G. Tejaswini (Under-18 girls), Aarit Kapil (Under-8 open) and A.S. Sharvaanica (Under-8 girls) won silver while Kheerthi Ganta and Aadya Ranganath won the Under-16 and 10 girls' bronze. India won nine medals in the rapid section and three gold in the blitz. Sharvaanica was the standout performer, winning medals in all three formats – classical, rapid and blitz.

Ashmitha-Hou go down in doubles pre-quarterfinals

Chiraz Bechri and Milana Zhabrailova defeated Ashmitha Easwaramurthi and Hou Yanan 6-4, 6-1 in the $15,000 ITF women's tennis doubles pre-quarterfinals in Monastir, Tunisia.

Pranavi secures full card for the Ladies Eurepean Tour

Indian golfer Pranavi Urs earned a full card on the Ladies European Tour (LET) for 2024 as she finished tied-31st at the Final Stage of the Qualifying School golf tournament in Marrakech (Morocco). Parnavi had a total of 12-under 351.

LIVE TELECAST

India Women vs Australia Women: Only Test, day 2, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.

ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday).

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday).

Gukesh wins on tie-break, is the frontrunner for Candidates berth

Arjun finishes joint-first but is pipped bynarrowest of margins and will have to claim the World Rapid to secure his spot

CHESS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

D. Gukesh drew with P. Harikrishna in the seventh and final round and won the Chennai Grand Masters Chess Championship on tie-break at The Leela Palace hotel here on Thursday.

Gukesh finished joint-first with Arjun Erigaisi, who beat Hungary's Sanan Sjugirov. The Sonneborn-Berger score was employed as the tie-break and Gukesh (13.75) edged Arjun (13.50) to the title.

Gukesh has surpassed Anish Giri in the FIDE Circuit leaderboard and has thus become the frontrunner for the FIDE Circuit Candidates spot.

Anish needs to finish in the top-three in the World Rapid or win the World Blitz, and Arjun has to win the World Rapid to overtake Gukesh and secure the FIDE Circuit Candidates spot.

Gukesh said he had decided to play safe after securing back-to-back wins over Alexandr Predke (Serbia) and Sjugirov in the fourth and fifth rounds.

"The last couple of rounds, I was in safe mode. I knew that tied for first would be enough for (topping) the (FIDE) Circuit. Two wins were quite nice, and I was like, 'Now, I should just not do anything stupid and just play it safe.' So, yes, honestly, I was just playing for a draw in the last two games," he said on the commentary.

"When you are fighting in every game, accidents can happen.

"It's not that I'm scared of it, but the stakes were just too high, and I didn't want to take any chances," he added.

The results (seventh round): P. Harikrishna (4) drew with D. Gukesh (4.5); Arjun Erigaisi bt Sanan Sjugirov (Hun, 2.5); Alexandr Predke (Srb, 1.5) lost to Parham Maghsoodloo (Irn, 3.5); Pavel Eljanov (Ukr, 4) drew with Levon Aronian (USA, 3.5).

Fruitful outing: Arjun, Gukesh and Harikrishna pose with their spoils. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Injured Shahzad out of Australia series

Agence France Presse
MELBOURNE

Pakistan suffered a setback on Thursday with pace bowler Khurram Shahzad ruled out of the series against Australia after pulling up sore following a heavy defeat in the first Test.

The 24-year-old impressed on his debut in Perth, finishing with match figures of five for 128, removing Steve Smith twice.

But he complained of discomfort and scans showed a stress fracture in the ribs along with an abdominal muscle tear.

"PCB will now consult a specialist in Australia after which a final management protocol will be established for the player," the Pakistan Cricket Board said in a statement.

Gukesh chuffed at how things have turned out for him

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

D. Gukesh on Thursday said that he was "relieved" he was able to play "good chess" to win the Chennai Grand Masters Chess Championship after a "stressful" few months.

"After the World Cup, things went horribly wrong. I was not in a good mental space. It was a new thing for me to handle this Candidates expectation and many different things.

"Till London (Chess Classic), I had very bad results, but I was more frustrated for not being able to play anywhere near to my level. So, finally, I'm very happy that this tournament went really well, and I could finally get the impression of what it feels like playing like myself," he said after the final round.

Gukesh said that the worry of losing rating points was also "playing on his mind constantly" during this phase.

Gukesh gave a shoutout to his second Gajewski. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"This probably was a phase that I felt at my lowest till now. But I think everyone needs to go through some phase like this to learn a few things. I'm sure it will help me a lot in the future. I'll handle the challenges I'll have in the future better."

On guiding him through this phase, his coach Vishnu Prasanna said: "We both knew that something was really wrong. We just tried to get back to that original state. Trying to forget about qualification and focus on playing well and so on.

"I knew what motivated him and what he really enjoys about chess. So, (I had to) just (make him) take his eye off the (Candidates) spot and focus on what's interesting about chess to him."

Besides thanking his coach, Gukesh also said he's grateful to his second Grzegorz Gajewski.

"Gajewski has been working with me for the last one year. We are in touch every day, and he also believed in me even when I didn't. Every single day, he was saying something to motivate me. During this (Chennai) tournament, he used to wake up at, like, 4 or 5 in the morning and work for me, prepare something for me."

Abhay Singh clinches a thriller against Mairaj in skeet final

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Abhay Singh Sekhon beat qualification topper and World Cup gold medallist Mairaj Ahmad Khan 20-19 after being tied on 59 in men's skeet final in the National selection trials in Bhopal on Thursday.

Mairaj had shot 122 in qualification along with Mohd. Sheeraz Sheikh who eventually placed fifth. Man Singh placed third ahead of Asian Games silver medallist Anantjeet Singh Naruka (121).

In women's skeet, Parinaaz Dhaliwal pipped Areeba Khan 53-52, pushing World Cup medallist Ganemat Sekhon to the third spot.

Anish Bhanwala was in top form in 25-metre rapid fire pistol winning the final 31-25 over Sameer Ghulia at the Karni Singh Range. Anish had topped qualification with 592, 12 points ahead of the next best.

On top: Abhay Singh won the shoot-off 20-19 against Mairaj.

Sift Kaur Samra won the women's rifle 3-position event with a 2.4 point margin over Priya, after topping qualification with 593.

Paarth Makhija topped men's air rifle by 0.4 point over Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar.

The results: Air rifle: Men: 1. Paarth Makhija 251.3 (631.0); 2. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar 250.9 (630.4); 3. Sandeep Singh 229.7 (630.3).

25m rapid fire pistol: Men: 1. Anish Bhanwala 31 (592); 2. Sameer Ghulia 26 (580); 3. Abhinav Choudhary 22 (579).

50m rifle 3-position: Women: 1. Sift Kaur Samra 462.0 (593); 2. Priya 459.6 (590); 3. Bhakti Bhaskar Khamkar 447.7 (590).

Skeet: Men: 1. Abhay Singh Sekhon 59(20) 119; 2. Mairaj Ahmad Khan 59(19) 122; 3. Man Singh 46 (119).

Women: 1. Parinaaz Dhaliwal 53 (115); 2. Areeba Khan 52 (118); 3. Ganemat Sekhon 42 (117).

Kartik springs a surprise on sixth seed Raghu

BADMINTON

K. Keerthivasan
GUWAHATI

Kartik Jindal of CAG produced one of the biggest upsets in the men's third round of the 85th Senior National badminton championships here on Thursday. Kartik's superior defence helped him defeat sixth seed M. Raghu 13-21, 21-18, 21-16 and enter the round-of-16.

The other top players, including Lakshya Sen, Kiran George, M. Tharun, M. Mithun sailed into the pre-quarterfinals.

Earlier in the men's second round, third seed Siddhanth Gupta of Tamil Nadu, was beaten by Aditya Joshi of Petroleum 11-21, 21-14, 15-21.

Smashing away! This is the first time Kartik has defeated Raghu in four encounters. RITU RAJ KONWAR

However, Aditya couldn't progress further as he went down fighting to Rounak Chouhan of Chhattisgarh 9-21, 21-17, 15-21 in the third round.

Chirag Sen of Railways defeated third-seeded Kartikey Gulshan Kumar of AAI 7-21, 21-19, 23-21 in the men's second round.

The match between Raghu and Kartik was fought tooth and nail. Raghu, an attacker by instinct, seemed tired at the end in the third, but kept going. On the other hand, Kartik retrieved nearly everything thrown at him.

Trailing 10-20 in the third game, Raghu, however, saved six match points before he hit one into the net while trying to take a forehand drop from Kartik. This is the first time that Kartik has defeated Raghu in four encounters.

The tournament witnessed four pull-outs – K. Sathish Kumar, S. Sankar Muthusamy (both Tamil Nadu), Ayush Shetty (Karnataka) and Saurav Kapoor (RBI) – due to injuries in the men's singles:

The results: Men (third round): Lakshya Sen (Pet) bt Abhinav Thakur (PNB) 21-13, 18-21, 21-8; Kartik Jindal (CAG) bt M. Raghu 13-21, 21-18, 21-16.

Alap Mishra (AAI) bt Ayush Shetty (Kar) 26-24, 5-5 (retd.); M. Tharun (TS) bt Chirag Seth (UP) 21-14, 21-8.

Kiran George (RBI) bt Amit Rathore (MP) 21-13, 21-12; Rounak Chouhan (CG) bt Aditya Joshi (Pet) 21-9, 17-21, 21-15.

M. Mithun (Kar) bt Saahas Kumar Potipi Reddi (TS) 21-14, 21-12; Harsheel Dani (Mah) bt Bidyasagar Salam (Man) 21-11, 21-11.

Varun Kapur (Mah) bt Sameer Verma (Pet) 6-21, 21-19, 21-15; Bharat Raghav (Har) bt K. Tarun Reddy (TS) 21-9, 21-11.

Kaushal Dharmamer (Rlys) bt Darshan Pujari (Mah) 18-21, 21-19, 21-19.; S. Bhargav (Kar) bt Aryamann Tandon (Guj) 13-21, 21-13, 21-9.

Sitwala storms into last four; Kothari & Advani advance

CUE SPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Dhruv Sitwala stormed into the last four of the billiards event with a 4-0 win over Karnataka's B. Bhaskar in the 90th senior National billiards and snooker championships at the Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Thursday.

Sourav Kothari, Dhvaj Haria, and Pankaj Advani, too, posted easy victories in their respective quarterfinal clashes.

The results: Men, billiards: Quarterfinals: Sourav Kothari (PSPB) bt Siddharth Parikh (RSPB) 4-1 (150-142, 150-144, 150-7, 75-150, 150-64); Dhvaj Haria (PSPB) bt Rupesh Shah (PSPB) 4-1 (150-67, 137-150, 151-139, 152-0, 150-87).

Dhruv Sitwala (PSPB) bt B. Bhaskar (Kar) 4-0 (151-8, 151-52, 150-58, 150-72),

Pankaj Advani (PSPB) bt Raayan Razmi (Mah) 4-0 (152-72, 150-105, 151-28, 152-129).

Sailing through: Advani breezed past Razmi while Kothari put it across Parikh.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Dheeraj to lead

Dheeraj Gowda will lead Karnataka in the BCCI under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy quarterfinal which will commence at Hubballi on December 29.

The squad: Dheeraj Gowda (capt.), Hardik Raj (vice-capt.), Prakhar Chaturvedi, Krishiv Bajaj, K.P. Karthikeya, Samit Dravid, Dhruv Prabhakar, Hari Rajiv, S. Ishaan, Samarth Nagaraj, Nishchith Pai, Madhava Dharwadkar, Yuvraj Arora, Agastya Raju, Shikhar Shetty.

Vrinda at the helm

Vrinda Dinesh will lead Karnataka in the BCCI under-23 women's T20 Trophy knockout stage to be held at Indore.

The squad: Vrinda Dinesh (capt.), Niki Prasad, Shreyanka Patil, G.R. Prerana, Roshini Kiran, Krishika Reddy, Chandasi Krishnamurthy, Mithila Vinod, Soumya Verma, Aditi Rajesh, Shishira Gowda, Pooja Kumari, Ananya Hegde, Sakshi Doijode, B.G. Tejashwini.

Shahan, Abhinav and Arush sizzle

Shahan Shadab (120), Abhinav Kulkarni (132) and Arush Jain (33 n.o. and 5/16) powered Delhi Public School (East) past Bishop Cotton Boys' School by 299 runs in the BTR Shield under-14 Group I, Div. I tournament.

The scores: DPS (East) 381/4 in 50 overs (Shahan Shadab 120, Abhinav Kulkarni 132, R. Nithin 50, Arush Jain 33 n.o.) bt Bishop Cotton 82 in 33 overs (Arush Jain 5/16, Akshaj Kathuria 3/8).

Sri Kumaran Children's Home 129 in 45.2 overs (Shravan Prasanna 29, Sukruth Kukke 26, Nitish Arya 3/19) lost to Max Muller 131 for no loss in 14 overs (Chirag Harsha 75 n.o., Nitish Arya 43 n.o.).

BGS National PS 207/8 in 50 overs (S.S. Abhinav 33, Yaeesh Rahaman 38, Reddi Bongu 46, Mohith Shriyans 38 n.o.) lost to Jain Heritage 208/5 in 38.1 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 98, J.N. Daksh 42 n.o.).

Holy Saint English 220/4 in 50 overs (Arnav Manchale 67, Amogh Hegde 62, R. Kuber 41, M. Rohith 25 n.o.) lost to DPS (South) 221/3 in 38.3 overs (J. Kishan 82 n.o., Rachit Das 64, Syaamantak Anirudh 55).

DPS (North) 100 in 30.2 overs (Vivek Dubey 5/21, Viraaj Gaurav 3/18) lost to Ebenezer IS 101/1 in 20.0 overs (Rajesh Nair 30, Bryan Thomas 33 n.o.).

Vidyashilp Academy 201 in 47.4 overs (Singh Dhami 27, Om Agarwalla 101 n.o., Aadrith 3/40, Samarth Srikantapuram 3/28) bt School Of India 188 in 46.3 overs (Rangapadiya Sam 41, Shaurya Tandon 26, Sachinkumar Jani 49, Paarth Madan 4/43).

Manikanth hits century

Manikanth Shivanand (153) helped BEL Colony RC defeat Friends XI (Doddaballapura) in the KSCA Group I, Div. IV league.

The scores: BEL Colony RC 341/7 in 50 overs (Tejas Naik 92, Manikanth Shivanand 153, S. Chinmay 3/62) bt Friends XI (Doddaballapura) 256 in 41.1 overs (Abid Ali 91, J. Sukruth 49, S. Nirmal 41, Ashwin Ram 3/54, Anand Kumbar 3/67).

Neptune 312/8 in 50 overs (Rayan Ahmed 54, N. Bharath 31, Bharath Prashanth 97, C.K. Akshay 42, S.P. Manjunath 33 n.o.) bt Lions 117 in 30 overs (K.H. Manoj 3/17).

City Gymkhana 185 in 42.4 overs (Ratan Thosh 30, G. Shantharaju 3/26, G. Pradeep 3/51) bt South End 148 in 34.5 overs (K. Mahesh 73, Bharath Pathour 29, Gaurav Venkatesh 5/27).

Wadiyar 262/7 in 50 overs (Madan 112, Asgar Pasha 55, R. Janardhan 3/44) lost to National United 263/9 in 50 overs (Deepak Ugrappa 39, Yeshwanth 87 n.o., Janardhan 65, Mohammed Ajmal 3/42).

Jayanagar Cricketers 159 in 44.2 overs (Ismail Mohtesham 60, Sudhindra Shinde 32, Kumar Singh 4/26) lost to Vijaya 160/6 in 34.4 overs (Avishek 61 n.o.)

Bharath 191 in 42.5 overs (C.S. Yathiraj 43, Hemanth 34, Samarth Hegde 38, Sundar 4/36) lost to Jayanagar United Cricketers 193/8 in 46.1 overs (Babu Thangavelu 66, Sunil Kaushik 45 n.o.).

Sangam 195 in 47.4 overs (D. Gagan 32, Sudhakar Yadav 34, Raghavendra Mohan 37, Vivek Naik 3/68, Pavan Kumar 3/26) bt Young Lions Club 135 in 37.5 overs (A.R. Ullas 44, M.S. Sharath 28, Raghu Hanumanthappa 5/28).

Palar 327/5 in 41 overs (H. Raghavendra 40, S. Abhijit 61, M. Manoj 36, Gautham Reddy 95 n.o., N. Raghavendra 56 n.o.) bt Eleven Brothers 74 in 23.5 overs (Syon Satvik 49, Khaja Moinuddin 3/29).

Brace by Karishma

Karishma Purushotham scored a brace to take Kickstart FC to a 2-1 win over Odisha FC in the Indian Women's League football tournament on Thursday.

The result: Kickstart 2 (Karishma Purushotham 13, 33) bt Odisha 1 (Rashmi Kumari 27).

Match drawn

Team Wildboar was held to a 2-2 draw by East India HC in the KSHA-BHA 'A' Division hockey league.

The results: Hindustan Friends drew with DPS (East) 0-0; East India 2 (Lokesh 43, Vivek Ramakrishna 49) drew with Team Wildboar 2 (Somaiah 5, Pemmaiah 27).